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Coalition applauds new guidelines on human trafficking

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Solberg puts revocation changes on backburner

Telegdi goes after minister in committee session

By Marco Levytsky

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg does not intend to bring forward changes to the Citizenship Act that would make the revocation process a judicial one as opposed to the current civil procedure.

"We're proposing to try and deal with some of the other issues I have raised, but I would be telling you a great lie if I said that we felt that we could move forward and make a bunch of amendments to the citizenship act at this time," he told the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration in response to a question from Liberal MP Andrew Telegdi (Kitchener-Waterloo).

"I think that there are issues that we think are even more pressing than that, quite frankly," he added.

Telegdi then reminded the minister that the proposed changes were part of the Conservative platform promise in the last election, adding "you had a report that was concurred in by the House, and that went through this committee, giving very specific instructions as to what the department is to do."

"Minister, I've been on this committee since 1998. I have seen six ministers, you're the sixth minister here, and I have come to appreciate that roadblocks in the bureaucracy can certainly stop political will. So, Minister, I hope that you will keep to your campaign promise as you made during the campaign, and your party made during the campaign, and will bring in a citizenship act that this committee spent a great deal of time on," he added.

"Well, I would just point out to you that we have made a few commitments in the election campaign, and we want to address them in the order that we choose," Solberg answered in turn.

"We are mindful that there are some things where there's more of a consensus and there are others where the issues are more difficult. And whether or not this committee, itself, dealt with the issue or whether you feel there is a consensus on this committee, I can tell you that the citizenship act proposals are very divisive. There is no consensus across the country on them. We know that."

Telegdi returned to the same subject later in the session, asking Solberg to define what he meant by consensus.

Solberg replied: "I think there's a pretty big debate in this country about some of the issues that you've shown a keen interest in, in the past. But, there's no doubt I don't think, in terms of having the public fully behind, getting rid of, for instance, the backlog, or cutting the right of permanent residence fee or some of the other things that we're talking about.

"Well, Mr. Speaker, I can only say that if I ever thought there was a consensus on anything, in the times that I have been in Parliament, it has been on this issue on revocation," Telegdi shot back.

"The previous government was going to introduce legislation when the House got prematurely defeated, and it was the expectations of overwhelming number of ethnic groups and Canadians across this country were expected that the Conservative government having made a promise to follow true on it. Let me say to you that the Alliance party supported it back in May 2000. The Alliance party supported this issue continually since then. Your members went on across Canada tours. They heard the presentations made by groups all across the country, and in all my years in Parliament, I have never come to anything closer to a virtual unanimous consensus. It wasn't unanimous, but it was virtually unanimous.

"It was in your platform in the last election, and so you come in here as your first appearance before the committee and you tell us that the votes of the Conservative members, the Alliance members in the past, didn't represent the consensus? We took the report from this committee into the House of Commons that

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Chornobyl commemorated on Parliament Hill

Over 200 candles on a cross were lit during the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster on Parliament Hill, April 26. Speakers at the event included Environment Minister Rona Ambrose, Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj, Bloc Quebecois MP Paul Crete, NDP Leader Jack Layton, Senator Raynell Andreychuk, Ukrainian Embassy Charge d'Affaires Vadym Prystayko, Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Orysia Sushko, Canadian Children of Chornobyl Fund President Roman Stepchuk and journalist Victor Malarek. Among the other parliamentarians present were Conservative MPs: Peter Goldring, Mark Warawa; Liberals: Andrew Telegdi, Irwin Cotler, Larry Bagnell; BQ MP Christiane Gagnon, NDP MPs: Olivia Chow, Peggy Nash; Senators: Consiglio Di Nino, Terry Stratton, and David Tkachuk. For more see the Ukrainian-language story on Page 10.

Ющенко думає, що з СНД можна вийти без втрат

(Українська правда)—Президент Віктор Ющенко впевнений, що Україна нічого не втратить у випадку виходу з СНД.

Таку думку він висловив 12 травня, виступаючи перед студентами Європейського коледжу у Варшаві, передає "Обком" з посиланням на "Українські новини".

"Якихось втрат спеціального характеру я не бачу з точки зору участі або неучасті в цьому формуванні, з позицій сьогоднішнього дня, немає таких домовленостей, які б вели до втрат (від виходу з нього) або навпаки", - сказав Ющенко.

На його думку, СНД зараз більше схожа на політичний клуб, у той час як Україна зацікавлена в прагматичних результатах роботи цього об'єднання.

"Ми сьогодні говоримо, що СНД більше схожа на політичний клуб, у якому ведуться певні дискусії. Чого б хотіла Україна, якщо ми говоримо про раціоналізацію цього утворення, - це вирішення абсолютно прагматичних проблем... це те, що б змінило погляди на це утворення", - сказав президент.

Ющенко сказав, що обсяг товарообігу, який існує в Україні з Росією, Білорусією й Казахстаном, зобов'язує до уніфікації торговельних, фіскальних, тарифних і митних процедур.

За його словами, Україна виступає за те, щоб торгово-економічні відносини будувалися гармонійно і йшли в конфігурації зони вільної торгівлі.

"У цілому, Україна виступає за те, щоб ці відносини відбувалися гармонійно і йшли до нової конфігурації. Цей процес ми бачимо у формуванні режиму зони вільної торгівлі", - сказав Ющенко.

Він нагадав, що угоду про створення зони вільної торгівлі між країнами СНД було підписано в 1993 році, але не було цілком імплементовано.

Ющенко також відзначив, що в торговельних відносинах України з Росією й іншими країнами діють виключення і обмеження.

"У нас працюють у відносинах, у тому числі з Росією, політика обмежень або вилучень, що не додає імпульсу цим відносинам", - сказав президент. Він вважає, що в рамках СНД можливо було провести уніфікацію митних і прикордонних процедур, а також уніфікацію тарифної політики, щоб полегшити роботу бізнесу на території Співдружності.

За словами президента, оскільки це не було зроблено, у нього склалася саме така оцінка роботи Співдружності.

В українських тюрмах почалися масові самогубства

(Українська правда)—У Львові у виправній колонії № 30 тридцять засуджених перерізали собі вени на знак протесту проти умов утримання.

Про це "5 каналу" анонімно повідомив один із в'язнів тридцятої колонії, 13 травня.

"По-перше, у нас антисанітарійний стан, по-друге діями режиму людей доводять не то що до виправлення, а так озлоблюють перед виходом на свободу, що люди не витримують і доводять всі ці дії до суїциду, тому що інакшими методами тут ніяк не доб'єшся, скарги, шо ми куда не писали, цензура того не пропускає", - розповів в'язень.

Обласна прокуратура зараз проводить перевірку колонії. За словами представників прокуратури, 17 в'язнів на знак протесту намагались заподіяти собі тілесну шкоду. Вони начебто протестували проти ізоляції в карцер одного з авторитетів.

Водночас чергові Департаменту виконання покарань ні у Львові, ні у Києві надати інформацію про інцидент відмовилися.

Агентству "Інтерфакс-Україна" в обласному управлінні департаменту виконання покарань повідомили, що така інформація до них не надходила.

Разом з тим, джерело, близьке до правоохоронних органів, підтвердило агентству, що інцидент справді мав місце.

Як зазначає "5 канал", 9 травня більше двох десятків затриманих порізали собі вени у Харківському СІЗО.

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Дотримання прав людини в пенітенціарних закладах

Кирило Булкін, *Радіо Свобода*

Чому останніми днями Україною прокотилася хвиля протестів серед ув'язнених? Чи мають підстави їхні твердження про жорстоке поводження з боку адміністрації? Якою взагалі є ситуація в українських пенітенціарних закладах, зокрема стосовно дотримання прав людини? Про це говорили 15 травня гості Вечірньої Свободи – адвокат, правовий експерт Харківської правозахисної групи Аркадій Бущенко та журналіст Володимир Бойко.

13-го травня група ув'язнених, що відбувають покарання у Львівській виправній колонії № 30, протестуючи проти дій адміністрації, завдали собі тілесних ушкоджень. Вони перерізали вени лезами, витягнутими з безпечних бритв. Кількома днями раніше такі саме дії вчинили ув'язнені у Харківському слідчому ізоляторі. Журналіст Володимир Бойко, який має великий досвід дослідження українських тюрем та колоній, вважає: такі акції протесту є цілком логічним результатом сваволі, що коїться у пенітенціарній системі загалом. Він звертає увагу на те, що ця система є величезним бізнесом, джерелом нелегального прибутку для тисяч і тисяч зайнятих у ній працівників.

"Сама ця система виправна – вона є виправною в лапках. Насправді вона покликана забезпечувати певні матеріальні запити тих людей, котрі нею керують, починаючи від сержанта, конвоїра, котрий має своїх 50 гривень чи 100 гривень за те, що передав "маляву" (записку), за те, що передав наркотики, за те, що організував чи не помітив якісь порушення розпорядку дисципліни внутрішньої, і закінчуючи самими верхами".

Причиною такого стану справ Володимир Бойко вважає те, що Україна не є правовою державою. Корупційний ланцюг, на його думку, тягнеться далеко за межі колоній, тюрем та слідчих ізоляторів: у тому, щоб нічого не змінювалося, зацікавлені й чиновники з прокуратури, яка, за законом, мала б здійснювати нагляд за дотриманням прав людини та законності в пенітенціарних закладах. Тому, на думку журналіста, годі сподіватися на зміни на краще у цих закладах, допоки не зазнає змін уся правова система України. Володимир Бойко далі:

"Ніякого поступу з дотриманням прав людини в цих закладах не буде. Це є реальність. До тих пір, доки не почнеться покарання людей, котрі зобов'язані дотримувати права людини в цих закладах".

Адвокат, правовий експерт Харківської правозахисної групи Аркадій Бущенко зазначає, що пенітенціарна система є надзвичайно закритою, і громадським організаціям дуже важко отримати інформацію про порушення прав ув'язнених.

"Жодна інформація про стан справ у колоніях не дійшла до нас або наших партнерів легальними шляхами. Тобто, це оці "маляви", це якась циганська пошта і таке інше, але жодної інформації з цих колоній не випливає. Вони дуже жорстко тримаються. І поки вони будуть закриті, ми не будемо знати, що там коїться, і ми будемо підозрювати, що там коїться найгірше".

Проте, на думку пана Бущенко, можна сподіватися, що зусилля громадянського суспільства сприятимуть підняттю завіси таємничості над ситуацією в українських пенітенціарних закладах, зокрема, в галузі дотримання прав людини.

Чи належать кістки, знайдені торік у Збручі, генералові Тарасові Чупринці?

Син і донька легендарного провідника УПА проведуть експертизу останків лише за кордоном, за фінансової підтримки друзів батька

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Родина Шухевича вимагає від українського уряду надати їм для експертизи знайдені кістки у Збручі, які можуть належати генералові Романові Шухевичу, псевдо Тарас Чупринка, аби передати їх на експертизу за кордон. Майже 8 місяців влада зволікає з експертизою і не організувала пошук людських решток у річці Збруч.

Юрій Шухевич востаннє бачився зі своїм батьком у 1948 році. А через два роки генерал був вбитий під Львовом - спецслужби організували засідку. Донедавна були розмови, що провідник УПА похований на подвір'ї тюрми на Лонського. Кілька років тому там проводили розкопки, але останків не виявили. Торік син і донька довідались, що тіло легендарного героя вивезли за межі Львівської області, спалили, загорнули рештки у брезент і кинули в Збруч. У травні минулого року колишній полковник МВД нібито вказав на місце поховання генерала на Хмельниччині. Велись пошуки і 13 жовтня знайшли рештки. Посадовці Рівненської обладміністрації і місцеві політики стверджували, що це останки генерала Шухевича. Натомість син вимагав експертизи. Недавно сестра провідника УПА, яка мешкає у місті Нальчик, надіслала результати власного ДНК аби їх змогли звірити із рештками, які знайшли торік восени. Нещодавно Юрію Шухевичу таки вдалось з'ясувати, що знайшли лише 3 кістки і ніхто не планує проводити експертизу.

Родина просить урядовців поновити пошуки у Збручі, можливо там є й інші людські останки. Адже ідентифікувати по 3 кістках людину складно. Втім 2 незалежні експертизи його рідні проведуть у двох країнах Європи.

Син генерала домагається, щоб СБУ надало для ознайомлення архівні матеріали справи провідника УПА, які 56 років перебувають під грифом таємно. Ці документи могли б допомогти у віднайдені тіла легендарного упівця і дати відповіді на інші численні запитання з життя українського героя.

Юрій Шухевич якось зізнався, що відчує полегшення лише тоді, коли його батько генерал Роман Шухевич, знаний як Тарас Чупринка, буде похований поруч зі своєю дружиною в родинному склепі у Львові.

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Вітренко з росіянами взялися рятувати Україну

(Українська правда/УНІАН)—Лідер ПСПУ Наталія Вітренко оголосила про створення Фронту національного порятунку з метою недопущення вступу України в НАТО.

Про це вона заявила 8 травня під час зустрічі з жителями Севастополя по завершені урочистого проходження ветеранів війни і Збройних сил та підрозділів гарнізону на відзначення Дня Перемоги. Вітренко закликала партії, громадські організації і громадян України об'єднуватися у цей фронт.

За її словами, рішення про створення фронту було прийнято 6 травня на засіданні президії партії, а оприлюднити його вона вирішила саме у Севастополі, де під час виборів 2006 року політична сила, яку вона очолює знайшла найбільшу у порівняні з іншими регіонами України підтримку виборців.

Разом з Вітренко у зустрічі з севастопольцями взяли участь три депутати Держдуми Росії, які так само як і лідер ПСПУ були серед гостей свята (депутати прибули у Севастополь на запрошення "Русской общины" Севастополя).

Solberg puts revocation changes on backburner

Cont. from P. 1

received concurrence, concurrence which means it was adopted by the House of Commons unanimously. How can you say that there's no consensus. If that's by any standard, if that's not consensus for you, I don't think you're going to accomplish anything as a minister that the bureaucrats don't approve for you because right now, you're here representing the bureaucracy. You said I'm quite a fan of the people in the department. Well, Mr. Solberg, I am not. I don't think it's a job of a minister to be a fan of the bureaucrats in the department. It is the job of the minister to stand up for what they promise in elections, what they tell Canadians and not to break faith when you get into office.

Solberg again returned to the consensus issue.

"We made a number of commitments that we've already started to move on, and I know that you have a singular interest in this. I understand that you feel strongly about it, but there are many issues that affect this portfolio, and we can't be held hostage to one issue. So we will deal with the issues where I feel there are consensus on, and we've talked about a number of issues here today and you're the only one that's really focused in on this."

Telegdi then said "this is an issue that's important to six million Canadians who were not born in this country and are treated as second class citizens because they do not have the benefits of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

"You've got all sorts of members in your caucus who are not born in this country. We had a situation where the minister in the last parliament toyed with the idea, speculated with the idea of removing citizenship possibly having it removed from one of the members in the Opposition.

"Minister, you have broken faith with those six million Canadians and everybody who believes in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and I can tell you, you have got off to a really miserable start as a minister in your portfolio and I certainly hope you're going to get some independent advice outside of the department because it's very clear to me that you don't have the knowledge and you don't have the appreciation for the issues.

Solberg's parliamentary secretary Ed Komarnicki later came to his minister's aid noting that "of course the parliamentary secretary of the then-Minister was the one who objected to the process and it is a complex process because it deals with civil burdens of proof and is something that is done, in large measure, with any matter that deals with administrative law.

"So certainly from that perspective it wasn't unanimous and certainly it's a matter that's quite extensive intrusion and perhaps requires further debate," he said.

Towards the end of the session Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Liberal, Etobicoke Centre) told Solberg:

"You'd said that the fact that, on the issue of citizenship revocation, that only Mr. Telegdi was raising this that obviously it's not of great importance to this committee. In fact, that's a misunderstanding. And Bill has raised it since. But what has been happening on this committee, there's an acknowledgement that Mr. Telegdi is actually the parliamentary authority on this particular issue and Mr. Komarnicki pointed out that there wasn't unanimous consent — the parliamentary secretary, Hedy Frye, was opposed to this particular issue. However, the four Conservatives — and I wouldn't want to assume that he's giving greater weight to the former parliamentary secretary than he would to the four Conservatives who actually concurred in this particular case. If that's the case I'm sure that would bring a broad smile to Hedy Frye's face."

Under the current Citizenship Act, citizenship can be revoked when a person obtained citizenship or permanent residence by false representation or fraud or by knowingly concealing material circumstances. Following a review in Federal Court — where a judge must simply agree that it is more likely than not that the person improperly obtained citizenship — the Federal Cabinet becomes responsible for making the revocation order.

The Standing Committee determined that the potential loss of citizenship is of such fundamental significance to the person concerned that fraud should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal court, that the legal protections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms — specifically sections 7 to 14 — must apply, and there should be no special limits placed on the right to appeal. It tabled its proposals before parliament on June 7, 2005 and the report received unanimous concurrence from the House on June 16.

Coalition applauds new guidelines on trafficking

(UkrNews)—The Stop The Trafficking Coalition says it applauds the new guidelines announced by Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg to help victims of human trafficking in Canada.

Irena Soltys

"Canada as an international leader has long needed to demonstrate its deep commitment in treating human trafficking as a crucial and serious human rights issue. While Canada has ratified the U.N. protocol to Prevent, Punish and Suppress Trafficking in Humans, and has taken the laudable step of passing amendments to the criminal code (Bill C-49), protection of victims of trafficking has, until now, been largely either overlooked or not addressed in terms of definitive constructive planning and commitment," stated the coalition in a press release issued May 12.

"The victims, often women and children, have for the most part been deported to their country of origin, without proper medical and psychological rehabilitative assistance. It is time that Canada takes responsibility for those we have victimized. It is also Canada's responsibility to be an international leader in stopping human trafficking by actively working with other countries to find solutions to this abuse of human rights, both in prosecuting the perpetrators and assisting those innocently victimized," it added.

Irena Soltys, co-chair of the coalition, told Ukrainian News that under the new guidelines under, victims of trafficking will be allowed to stay in Canada for up to 120 days under temporary resident permits (TRPs), whether they testify against traffickers or not.

During this time they will be provided with health care and psychological services.

She said the coalition felt it was very important to provide for rehabilitative services for traffickers in Canada . "It's basically our responsibility. We've allowed women or children into our country. We've allowed them to be victimized... the basic thing that we owe them is rehabilitation."

The proposed guidelines for "Assistance for Victims of Human Trafficking" were outlined May 12 during a conference call, chaired by Ben Perrin, Senior Policy Advisor to Solberg. Participants included government representatives and various non-governmental organizations, including Stop The Trafficking Coalition (STT).

"Stop The Trafficking Coalition looks forward to future collaboration and work with the CIC and all those committed to putting these new measures into practice: government and law enforcement bodies as well as non-government organizations, social and immigration service organizations, and grass roots community volunteers," stated the coalition in its release.

"Helping victims of human trafficking, who are often victims of organized crime, is the compassionate thing to do," said Minister Solberg, in making his announcement. "These new measures give us another tool to support our continuing efforts against this serious crime," he added.

"Human trafficking often involves organized crime and the RCMP is committed to working with key partners such as CIC to uncover, report and target traffickers who exploit the most vulnerable of our society," said Mike Cabana, RCMP Chief Superintendent and Director General of Border Integrity.

"These new measures build on our continuing efforts to address human trafficking", said Minister Solberg. "We will not stand by idly and allow criminals to profit from victims of human trafficking." Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act also includes penalties of up to life imprisonment and fines of up to one million dollars for conviction for trafficking in persons.

New act to provide citizenship for adopted children

(UkrNews)—Monte Solberg, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, introduced a new bill May 15 which will allow children adopted abroad by Canadian citizens to obtain Canadian citizenship without first having to become permanent residents.

As a result, the difference in treatment between children adopted abroad and children born abroad of a Canadian parent will be minimized.

"We are supporting Canadian families who adopt foreign-born children by helping them get citizenship without having to go through the immigration process," Minister Solberg said. "It is fitting that the introduction of this important bill occurs on the International Day of Families."

In order for the adopted child to be granted citizenship, the adoption must conform to the laws of the province or the territory of residence of the adoptive parents. Adopted children will be able to acquire Canadian citizenship as soon as the adoption process is completed, providing that an application for citizenship is submitted in their name.

"This is a major step forward for foreign-born adopted children and their adoptive families," said Sandra Scarth, President of the Adoption Council of Canada.

"The Government of Canada is committed to working to welcome these young new Canadians and enhance fairness," said Minister Solberg.

UCC calls for an end to genocide crisis in Darfur.

(UkrNews) —The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has called for an end to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, where mainly Arab militias known as the Janjaweed are being used by the Sudanese Government to ethnically cleanse the region of the local non-Arab population.

"The scale of the tragedy evolving there is terrible. Recent reports estimate that more than 300,000 people have already died. Over 2 million people had been displaced from their homes and hundreds of thousands have fled to the neighbouring country of Chad," stated the UCC National Headquarters in a press release issued, May 10.

"What is disturbing for Ukrainian Canadians is that food is being used as a weapon by the government. The victims face death from starvation and disease as the Government of Sudan and militias attempt to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching them.

"This eerily mirrors what took place in Ukraine during the Genocide-Famine of 1932-33 when the rulers of the Soviet Union purposely took food from the Ukrainian countryside and allowed millions to die of starvation as part of their plan to destroy the Ukrainian people and eliminate the private ownership of land.

"The Ukrainian Canadian Congress calls upon the people and Government of Canada to add their voices to those who are calling for international action to stop the outrages in Darfur. Additionally, the UCC urges the Canadian government to take the lead in protecting the victims and alleviating their plight.

"In 1932-33 the world was silent as millions of Ukrainians were starved to death in a famine engineered by Stalin. We cannot and will not allow that to happen again to any people. Atrocities such as Darfur are no longer a secret to the rest of the world. Today, we must act collectively to stop the genocide in Darfur. It is not too late," concludes the UCC.

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У Криму проросійські організації протестують проти реабілітації ОУН-УПА

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

У Криму проросійські організації протестують проти реабілітації ОУН-УПА. Кілька десятків їхніх активістів 10 травня пікетували Постійне представництво Президента України в Криму. Вони погрожували Віктору Ющенку відставкою, а воїнам Української Повстанської Армії – смертю.

"Ющенко геть!!!", - Пікет проти визнання Української Повстанської Армії воюючою стороною у 2-й Світовій війні вилився зрештою в антипрезидентський мітинг. Його учасники заявили, що домагатимуться імпічменту Віктора Ющенка і збираються провести акції протесту і в інших містах Криму та Півдня і Сходу України.

Каже лідер радикальної молодіжної організації "Прорив" Надія Полякова: "Реабілітація воєнщини ОУН-УПА рівносильне реабілітації фашизму. А реабілітація на державному рівні, як це пропонує Президент України, це виклик усьому цивілізованому світу!"

Її колеги з "Прориву" спалили перед Представництвом президента кілька муляжів прапорів нацистської Німеччини та Організації українських націоналістів і пообіцяли так само палити ветеранів ОУН-УПА: "Я зараз спалив бандерівський фашистський прапор. Коли за будь-якої ситуації я побачу бандерівців, фашистів з ОУН-УПА – я їх так само палитиму, як і сьогодні!"

Йосип Воробчак – один з небагатьох кримчан, колишніх бійців УПА, проти якого і спрямована погроза смерті з боку проросійських радикалів, каже, що попри все підтримує пропозицію президента: "Я позитивно ставлюся, аби він тільки зміг це зробити, бо ми ж боролися і вмирали за Україну. І нічого не боялися!"

Ющенко вирішив, що мало допоміг "дитинкам-сиротинкам"

(Українська правда/УНІАН)—Президент Віктор Ющенко підписав указ про основні напрями вдосконалення системи соціальних виплат населенню.

Відповідний указ підписано 10 травня, повідомляє прес-служба президента.

"Рівень бідності населення в Україні, передусім серед сімей з дітьми, родин, в яких є непрацездатні або непрацюючі особи працездатного віку, свідчить про недостатню ефективність існуючої системи державної підтримки", - йдеться в указі.

Президент зобов'язав Кабмін у двомісячний строк затвердити заходи щодо реалізації основних напрямів вдосконалення системи соціальних виплат населенню.

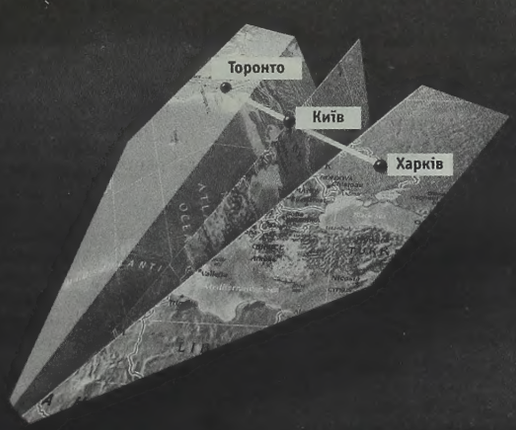
Серед основних напрямків реформи: удосконалення моніторингу системи соцвиплат, спрямованих на подолання бідності, впорядкування видів держсоцдопомоги.

Зокрема, йдеться про запровадження готівкової форми надання населенню житлових субсидій на підставі розрахункових норм; інтегрування програми житлових субсидій в систему державної соцдопомоги.

Указ передбачає запровадження економічно обґрунтованих критеріїв визначення права на отримання держсоцдопомоги, в тому числі оцінки майнового стану сім'ї.

Також указом передбачається спрощення процедур призначення всіх видів держсоцдопомоги через запровадження механізму "єдиного вікна".

Прямо через Київ.



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Патріарх Філарет про проблеми з визнанням

Оксана Лігостова, *Голос Америки*

Вступ України до Євросоюзу і НАТО допоміг би визнанню українського православ'я. Так вважає Патріарх Київський і всієї Руси Філарет. З нагоди свого сорокарічного перебування на Київській кафедрі владика ділився роздумами про шляхи створення єдиної помісної православної церкви в Україні.

«Це сприяло б визнанню українського православ'я». Так патріарх Філарет відповів на запитання про те, як вплинуло б на церковну ситуацію в Україні її членство в євроатлантичних структурах. «Те, що в Україні є сьогодні помісна українська православна церква, це факт», – заявив першоієрарх.

За кількістю парафій Київський патріархат стоїть на другому місці після Московського патріархату, а за кількістю віруючих він – на першому місці, твердить Філарет. За його словами, єдина причина, чому українську церкву досі не визнано в світі, це протидія Москви. Як він пояснив, коли справа дійшла до необхідності визнання Київського патріархату, Московський патріарх пригрозив розколом всього світового православ'я:

«Враховуючи цю погрозу Московського патріарха про розкол всього православ'я, Вселенський Патріарх Варфоломій не хоче, щоб внаслідок визнання Київського патріархату було розколото все світове православ'я, і тому нам пропонують потерпіть».

«Терпіти» доведеться до сприятливіших зовнішньо-політичних умов. «Які ті умови будуть, знає Бог», – каже київський патріарх. Однак підтверджує, що між євроінтеграцією України та появою помісної української православної церкви є прямий зв'язок.

Предстоятель Київського патріархату заявив також, що прискоренню визнання церкви повинна посприяти держава. Як стверджує Філарет, багато парафій Московського патріархату хотіли б перейти в Київський патріархат, але не можуть, бо закон про право вибору релігійного центру не виконується. Приклад – конфлікт довкола громади православних в Острозі, якій силоміць перешкодили перейти під юрисдикцію Київського патріарха.

Створення єдиної помісної православної церкви в Україні Філарет, що ось уже 40 років очолює київську кафедру, називає справою свого життя. Доки цього не станеться – від патріаршества не відмовиться:

«При одній умові я міг би відійти на спокій. Яка це умова – це утворення в Україні єдиної помісної православної церкви, і не просто утворення, а й визнання цієї церкви. Ось як буде одна в Україні православна церква, визнана світовим православ'ям, я буду вважать, що моя місія виконана».

Коментуючи ідею об'єднання українських православних з греко-католиками, висловлену предстоятелем Греко-католицької церкви Любомиром Гузарем, патріарх Філарет каже, що все залежить від того, яка церква постане після об'єднання. Якщо православна – тоді він згоден, якщо католицька – то ні.

Відповідаючи на запитання журналістів, глава Київського патріархату висловив також своє ставлення до питань мирських. Сказав, що як громадянин підтримує помаранчеву коаліцію в парламенті. Висміяв так звану «анафему» на адресу президента Ющенка, висловлену представниками Московського патріархату, за те, що той ходив до Філарета у Володимирський храм причащатись. А також засудив скандальний фільм "Код да-Вінчі", вже засуджений всіма церквами, і порадив дивитися його лиш тим, у кого віра міцна. «Якщо ви можете протистоять, то дивіться. Якщо віра слабка, то не дивіться, не спокушуйтесь...», – зазначив він.

Справу Гонгадзе послухають знову таємно

(Українська правда)—Слухання справи щодо вбивства журналіста Ґеоргія Гонгадзе продовжиться 25 травня о 11 годині ранку. Про це "Українській правді" повідомила представник Мирослави Гонгадзе Валентина Теличенко.

За її словами, наступне засідання Апеляційного суду відбудеться в закритому режимі.

Впродовж засідання 16 травня, яке завершилося о 20 годині, учасники процесу заслухали висновок державного експерта з питань доступу до державної таємниці, а також продовжили допит підсудного Олександра Поповича.

За словами Теличенко, перша частина допиту (вільна розповідь) завершилась і "сторони перейшли до запитань". "Ставити питання ми продовжимо 25 травня", - сказала вона.

Причиною перенесення засідання стало клопотання одного з адвокатів підсудних з проханням надати йому час "з особистих мотивів".

16 травня відповідний доступ до матеріалів справи отримали представники підсудних, потерпілих, за винятком представника Мирослави Гонгадзе Величка, який надав документи з запізненням і тепер чекає на завершення процедури перевірки.

Довідки щодо допуску інших учасників процесу долучені до матеріалів справи. Також долучені відповідні документи суддів, народних засідателів і представників конвойної служби.

Також суддя Ірина Григор'єва повідомила, що суд володіє розпорядженням президента Віктора Ющенка щодо надання Лесі Гонгадзе доступу до матеріалів справи.

За словами судді, таке розпорядження видане на підставі закону про державну таємницю та з урахуванням пропозицій РНБО.

Відповідне зобов'язання Леся Гонгадзе має підписати особисто.

Мати вбитого журналіста не змогла приїхати на засідання з поважних причин. Натомість у суді присутні її представники, тому суд за згодою усіх учасників процесу вирішив продовжувати засідання.

У зв'язку з тим, що інформація, яка розголошуватиметься на засіданні, буде конфіденційною, Григор'єва попросила учасників процесу залишити мобільні телефони за межами зали.

Убивць несправжнього вбивці Александрова віддали під суд

(Українська правда)—Генпрокуратура направила до суду кримінальну справу за обвинуваченням членів організованого злочинного угруповання у вбивстві Юрія Вередюка.

Раніше Вередюка за сфальсифікованими матеріалами було незаконно притягнуто до кримінальної відповідальності за вбивство журналіста Ігоря Александрова.

Як повідомляє прес-служба Генпрокуратури, в угрупованні всього 9 осіб, 4 з яких колишні працівники міліції Донецької області.

Крім убивства Вередюка, члени банди обвинувачуються у 4 умисних убивствах, вимаганнях, пов'язаних із захопленням заручників, викраденнях потерпілих, незаконним позбавленням їх волі та вбивствах (зокрема братів Карпенків), а також у вчиненні ряду службових злочинів – перевищення влади, розкрадання майна шляхом зловживання службовим становищем, тощо.

Tymoshenko gives up on Rada speaker plan

(Ukrainian Journal)—Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on May 16 backtracked on her earlier plan to give the crucial parliamentary speaker post to the Socialist Party after Our Ukraine had threatened to suspend coalition talks.

The parties have been making progress in the talks, but Tymoshenko's controversial plan on May 15 had triggered an angry reaction from Our Ukraine, which has been seeking to take the post.

"Today we received assurances from our partners that they will abstain from making such comments," Petro Poroshenko, one of Our Ukraine leaders, said May 16. "First, a political agreement must be signed."

The assurances may help put the talks back on track following a warning from Our Ukraine early May 16 that Tymoshenko's plan has been an attempt "to cheat."

The focus in the talks has been shifting towards the post of the parliamentary speaker apparently amid understanding between the groups that Tymoshenko will take the job of the prime minister.

Tymoshenko's group collected most of votes among three potential coalition partners during the March 26 election, followed by Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party. The three parties will control 243 seats in 450-seat Parliament.

It was widely understood among politicians that if Tymoshenko takes the job of the prime minister, Our Ukraine would probably be taking the job of the speaker. Tymoshenko's sudden plan to give the post to the Socialist Party led to an outcry from Our Ukraine.

"Our Ukraine cannot and will not agree with this adventurous and insulting plan from Yulia Volodymyrivna [Tymoshenko]," Roman Zvarych, the chief of Our Ukraine's legal department, said early May 16. "We suspend our participation in the talks until these statements are denied."

Analysts said Tymoshenko's plan to give the speaker post to the Socialist Party has been apparently aimed at weakening Our Ukraine, a party that Tymoshenko views as a rival.

The speaker will have a major impact on the country's politics as Parliament gains more powers, such as the right to appoint and to dismiss the government, following constitutional amendments introduced on Jan. 1.

Sources said Our Ukraine may seek to nominate Poroshenko, a long-time rival of Tymoshenko, to the post of the speaker, to offset Tymoshenko's rising influence if she gets the job of the prime minister.

A conflict between Tymoshenko, then the prime minister, and Poroshenko, then the top security advisor to the president, led to the collapse of the government in September 2005.

President Viktor Yushchenko was forced to dismiss both to diffuse the government crisis.

Klein planning return visit to Ukraine

(UkrNews)—Alberta premier Ralph Klein is planning a return visit to Ukraine in mid June.

Unlike the previous visit when he led a delegation including several ministers, MLA's community and business representatives, this time he will only be accompanied by Education Minister gene Zwozdesky.

Zwozdesky told Ukrainian News there are three reasons for the premier's visit.

First, he promised to return during his 2002 trip, second he was invited by local governors in western Ukraine, and third, he wants to follow up on Memorandums of Understanding that were signed by Alberta with Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv Oblasts.

The main focus of this visit will be in the spheres of Education and arts and culture, said Zwozdesky.

He added that the premier will also participate in the celebrations of Lviv City's 750 anniversary.

Alberta has also prepared an exhibit on Ukraine's role in providing immigration to this province and will display it at that time.

Russia offers carrot-and-stick CIS policy

(Ukrainian Journal)—Russia indicated May 10 it would use carrot-and-stick policy to keep its neighbors within the Commonwealth of Independent States after Ukraine and Georgia had suggested they may quit the alliance.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his government was ready to approve a more liberal trade regime by apparently removing trade barriers for alliance members, while non-members would probably face more restrictions.

"Russia is prepared to announce the ultimate result of this quest directly and clearly: the creation of an optimal economic system that would ensure the efficiency of each [CIS] member," Putin said in a key speech.

The comments may be a sign that Russia has been seeking to change its policy after harsh trade sanctions against Ukraine and Georgia had forced them to start talks over quitting the alliance.

Russia banned $800 million worth imports of meat and dairy products from Ukraine and completely prohibited imports of Georgian wine and mineral water, the country's main exports, apparently trying to punish them for their pro-Western foreign policy.

Also earlier this year Russia has doubled natural gas prices for all its neighbors except Belarus, and briefly suspended gas supplies to Ukraine and Georgia underscoring a major dispute.

The sanctions pushed Kyiv and Tbilisi to start consultations on May 12 on whether to quit the CIS, an alliance that had been created in 1992 to replace the former Soviet Union.

The departure of Ukraine and Georgia, the two most vocal critics of the CIS, could prompt exodus by other countries from the Russia-led alliance. Such development is viewed by analysts as a setback for Moscow, which has been persistently seeking to strengthen its geopolitical role.

"I repeat, relations with our nearest neighbors was and remains a very important area of the Russian Federation's foreign policy," Putin said during his annual address to the Federal Assembly.

Meanwhile, the departure of Ukraine and Georgia, the countries that have been also seeking to join NATO, a bloc that Russia views as a military threat, would most likely lead to significant tensions, according to a senior Russian lawmaker.

"There would be nothing good for the people of these two countries," Andrei Kokoshin, the head of the CIS committee in the State Duma, the lower house of Russian Parliament.

"On the contrary, this would set a barrier that would be very hard to overcome. We are talking about economic and political issues," Kokoshin said. "These countries would not become part of the West, but they would not be part of the CIS either."

Ukraine and Georgia are members of GUAM, a regional group that also includes Moldova and Azerbaijan, and the significance of which is expected to increase, Ukrainian officials have said.

Ukraine will host a GUAM summit on May 22-23 to transform the group into a full-fledged international organization that will be headquartered in Kyiv, the officials said.

Minister says regional status for Russian unlawful

(TV 5 Kanal/BBC Monitoring Service)—Ukrainian Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatyy has said that the decisions by the Luhansk Region council, Kharkiv city council and Sevastopol city council to give Russian the status of a regional language are unlawful. The decisions to this effect were adopted in Luhansk on April 25, in Sevastopol on April 26 and in Kharkiv on March 6.

"These decisions are unlawful because they run counter to the Ukrainian constitution and laws," Holovatyy said in a live interview on Ukrainian TV on May 10.

"The Ukrainian constitution and laws allow neither city nor regional councils to decide the issues dealing with the status of languages. The articles 10 and 92 of the constitution say that language issues are settled exclusively by the laws of Ukraine," Holovatyy said.

"Article 10 of the constitution clearly says that the Ukrainian language has the status of the state language in Ukraine and that the Russian language belongs to ethnic minority languages and has the legal status of an ethnic minority language. Therefore, neither a law nor any city council can change this status. So these councils overstepped their powers. In addition, there is no notion of a regional language in our legislation," Holovatyy added.

Holovatyy also said that the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, to which the aforementioned councils referred to when adopting the decisions on the Russian language, had been developed to protect the languages which are facing extinction. "Please tell me in which Ukrainian town or in which region the Russian language is facing extinction," Holovatyy asked.

"I am prepared to appear on radio or TV to explain that Ukraine and the Ukrainian people need active and, I would say, aggressive protection of their language rights," Holovatyy concluded.

The Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonto, and
The Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society
Will hold their

Annual General Meetings
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Solberg needs to be informed on revocation issue

Editorial

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Monte Solberg deserves a bouquet from one hand, and a sharp barb from the other. He is to be commended for implementing new guidelines to provide rehabilitative services for victims of human trafficking.

Working within Canada's existing legislative framework, immigration officers will issue temporary resident permits (TRPs) for up to 120 days to victims of human trafficking. The permit will enable victims to begin to recover from the impact of this crime. Victims who receive the TRPs will also be exempted from the processing fee, and will be eligible for health-care benefits under the Interim Federal Health program. The new measures have been carefully designed so that only bona fide victims of human trafficking will benefit from them.

Until now many victims were deported back to their homes where they could once again fall prey to their traffickers. Such changes have been called for the Stop The Trafficking Coalition, which has applauded the new guidelines.

As Irena Soltys, co-chair of the coalition, told Ukrainian News: "It's basically our responsibility. We've allowed women or children into our country. We've allowed them to be victimized... the basic thing that we owe them is rehabilitation"

At the same time, however, Solberg deserves a barb for putting the changes proposed by the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, which would turn the current revocation of citizenship system into a judicial (as opposed to political) process, and make it consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights, on the back burner.

While Solberg may be correct in stating that "we have made a few commitments in the election campaign, and we want to address them in the order that we choose," what we find troubling is his assertion that: "I can tell you that the citizenship act proposals are very divisive. There is no consensus across the country on them. We know that."

There may not be unanimity on these changes, but there certainly is a large groundswell of popular support for them.

The report was the result of cross-country consultations involving more than 130 witnesses. Over 6 million naturalized Canadians who are second-class citizens under the current legislation are affected. Virtually every ethnocultural group in Canada supports these changes. The Standing Committee determined that the potential loss of citizenship is of such fundamental significance to the person concerned that fraud should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal court, that the legal protections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms — specifically sections 7 to 14 — must apply, and there should be no special limits placed on the right to appeal. It tabled its proposals before parliament on June 7, 2005 and the report received unanimous concurrence from the House on June 16. Ten out of the 12 members of the committee supported the majority report — including all the Conservatives, all the NDP and all the Bloc Quebecois members.

It is curious to note Parliamentary Secretary for Citizenship and Immigration Ed Komarnicki's defense that "of course the parliamentary secretary of the then-Minister was the one who objected to the process and it is a complex process because it deals with civil burdens of proof and is something that is done, in large measure, with any matter that deals with administrative law. So certainly from that perspective it wasn't unanimous and certainly it's a matter that's quite extensive intrusion and perhaps requires further debate."

Let's contrast that with the comments made by his colleague Diane Ablonczy, then Immigration Critic for the Conservative party, in this newspaper in August, 2005, when responding to claims by then-Citizenship and Immigration Minister Joe Volpe, that the House concurred in both the majority and the minority report.

"It is, of course, nonsense to suggest that the House agreed BOTH with the Committee's (majority, including a majority of all parties represented) report AND the dissenting opinion. Acceptance pertains to the majority position. I wrote several dissenting opinions to Committee reports in years past when the Liberals controlled Committees. No one ever suggested that minority dissent was in any way, shape or form on parity with the (majority) Committee report. Is the Minister saying democracy must equal unanimity? Preposterous!

"It should also be noted that the dissenting opinion was filed by the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary who traditionally serves as the Minister's eyes, ears and voice on the Committee. He is therefore in a conflict of interest, not to mention in contempt of the Committee, to place what may well be his own views as articulated through the PS, as a rationale to disrespect the majority consensus. Certainly that would be the opposite of the democratic renewal the Liberals claim is on their agenda!" she wrote.

In light of this, it may be useful for the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to meet with Komarnicki and present him with a copy of the same brief they presented to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

As we have noted there is widespread support for theses changes, but there is not unanimity. Where you find the opposition is with two lobby groups who may have powerful political clout, but collectively represent only 01.2 per cent of the population of Canada. That's 300,000 versus six million.

And the reasons for their opposition to these changes is that they want the legal loophole that allows the war crimes unit of the justice to persecute Ukrainian Canadians and other people of East European origin, without having to provide any evidence of any war crimes whatsoever, nor even bother charging the individuals with any crimes.

In an Oct. 31, 2005, Op Ed piece in the Ottawa Citizen, Ed Morgan, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, argued that "civil revocation cases are not criminal proceedings and the proposed higher evidentiary threshold is inappropriate and unnecessary".

However, in that very same article he very loosely throws around terms like "war criminals" and "Hitler's henchmen" to describe four Second World War cases, (not coincidentally, either ethnic Ukrainians or of Ukrainian geographic origin) who were found guilty "on a balance of probabilities" of having lied upon coming to Canada over 50 years ago.

What Morgan most conveniently omits is that in none of these cases was there any evidence of any individual war crimes proven.

More recently (April 26) in the Winnipeg Free Press, David Matas, senior legal counsel to B'nai Brith Canada, named these same four individuals in an article headlined "Remember the murderers". Matas stated that: "In order to launch the cases against these men in federal Court, the War Crimes Unit in the Department of Justice determined that there is compelling evidence linking them to Nazi-era crimes against humanity." What Matas neglected to mention was that this "compelling evidence" was thrown out by the court because it was determined to have been obtained by the KGB through torture.

One of the four men Matas refers to is Wasyl Odynsky.

Let's examine what yet another Conservative MP, Peter Goldring (Edmonton East) had to say about the Odynsky case in this newspaper on Dec. 14, 2005.

"Every Canadian accused of being a war criminal should be brought to trial in a Canadian court of law to receive due process and be given the full benefit of reasonable doubt on all matters. The case against Mr. Odynsky found 'on balance,' but without any evidence, that he *must* have lied well over 50 years ago at the time of his immigration application. The finding is based on the judge's view that Mr. Odynsky *must* have been asked by an immigration officer about his wartime activities; however, no witnesses or records exist to substantiate such an accusation. While citizenship, livelihood and reputation are all at stake, surprisingly little allowance is given for the possibility that Mr. Odynsky is telling the truth. It seems clear that Wasyl Odynsky was placed under a reverse onus of proof of the type normally found objectionable in Canadian law... Mr. Odynsky deserves protection from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms from this kind of tormenting prosecution. Certainly, over 50 years of hard honourable work deserves equal rights under the Constitution."

It should be noted that, while Minister Solberg put the committee's recommendations on the backburner, he did not completely shut the door. Nevertheless, it is clear from both his comments and those of his parliamentary secretary, that both Solberg and Komarnicki need to be informed on these issues by members of our community and by their own caucus colleagues who are familiar with them.

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Citizenship at risk

By Peter Worthington, *Toronto Sun, May 4, 2006*

This month (Ed. note: the April 19-May 2 issue) the Edmonton-based Ukrainian News ran an editorial urging the Harper government to pass the new citizenship act that collapsed when the January election was called.

The newspaper calls it a "no-brainer," since "virtually every ethnocultural group in Canada" supported the key change in the act to make the revocation of citizenship a judicial decision rather than a political act.

The Ukrainian News is right.

As it stands now, a naturalized Canadian can have his citizenship revoked and be deported without appeal or due process if a federal judge rules it is "probable" that the person lied to enter Canada.

Cabinet makes the decision without representation of the person in question or a lawyer.

In essence, that makes some six million naturalized Canadians second-class citizens.

The new citizenship act, which has to be reintroduced in Parliament, had full support of the NDP, the Bloc Quebecois, Conservative party and most Liberals — hence the "no-brainer" judgment that is endorsed by most ethnic groups in Canada.

Although not one of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "five priorities," a new citizenship act is important and should pass easily.

Recommendations of previous standing committees on citizenship and immigration were supported across Canada as well as in Parliament.

Reduced to its essentials, all it means is that anyone slated to have citizenship revoked and be deported has the right to appeal — and that includes suspect Rwandan war criminal Leon Mugasera and Croatian, Serbian or other alleged war criminals who may be hiding out in Canada.

As the Ukrainian News points out, "the standing committee determined that the potential loss of citizenship is of such fundamental significance to the person concerned, that fraud should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal court, and that the legal protections of the Canadian Charter of Rights should apply ... (with) no special limits on the right to appeal."

That seems not only reasonable but critical.

The report was unanimously approved in the Commons last June.

A reason why it is important to get the new citizenship act implemented appeared in a letter to the National Post on April 4 by Ed Morgan, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Morgan praised the Post for urging the deportation of a suspected Rwandan war criminal, and urged that "other war criminals" be ousted — including Helmut Oberlander of Kitchener, whom the previous Liberal government wanted denaturalized and deported but whose wishes were overruled by federal judges.

Although Morgan calls Oberlander a "war criminal," this has never been proven, other than he "probably" did not admit he'd been seconded as an interpreter for an infamous Nazi death squad when he entered Canada after World War II.

The CJC opposes the right of appeal for several Ukrainians who, as teenagers, were forced to work for the Nazis in World War II, although B'nai Brith is on record supporting an appeal process.

Chairman of the standing committee that for a couple of years crisscrossed Canada soliciting opinions on the new act is Andrew Telegdi, a Hungarian-born Liberal MP (and naturalized citizen) who strikes me as sensible enough to be a Conservative.

As an aside, Warren Kinsella, on his Internet homepage says former U.S. president Bill Clinton and ex-PM Jean Chretien are the "only two politicians I ever wanted to be photographed with," praises Morgan's "great letter" to the Post and quips that he'd "also vote" for the deportation of Andrew Telegdi ..."

This smart-ass observation is why many naturalized Canadians feel vulnerable and second-class, and why due process of law is necessary.

Ukraine, Poland seek reconciliation

By Jan Maksymiuk

(RFE/RL)—The presidents of Ukraine and Poland — Viktor Yushchenko and Lech Kaczynski, respectively — met in the Polish village of Pawlokoma on May 13 to call for the reconciliation of the Ukrainian and Polish nations over their common past, Polish and Ukrainian media reported.

Yushchenko and Kaczynski were attending the unveiling of a memorial to more than 360 ethnic Ukrainian villagers who were slain in Pawlokoma by a Polish military group in 1945.

"We must speak openly of our painful and difficult past.... Strong and lasting reconciliation may only be built upon a foundation of truth. We cannot change the past, but we can make sure that it does not determine the future," Kaczynski said in Pawlokoma.

In turn, Yushchenko said in his speech at the Pawlokoma memorial: "I can imagine what a difficult road has been traveled by tens of thousands of people to this act of reconciliation to which we are witnesses today. But I am convinced of one thing, that only the strong are capable of forgiving.... I bow my head before you, beloved Ukrainians and Poles who stand before me and who stand on these hills. You are creating a courageous and correct policy."

Today, Pawlokoma is home to about 500 residents in southeastern Poland, 50 kilometers from the Polish-Ukrainian border. But prior to the outbreak of World War II, the Polish village boasted a population of 1,200 — about 900 Greek Catholic (Uniate) Ukrainians living among Roman Catholic Poles.

In March 1945, a detachment of Polish anti-Nazi guerrillas from the Home Army (AK) subordinated to the Polish emigre government in London shot to death hundreds of Ukrainian inhabitants of Pawlokoma. The Ukrainians were herded in a local Greek Catholic church, interrogated and likely tortured, and then taken to a local cemetery where they were executed.

However, this figure is questioned by some Polish historians, including Zdzislaw Konieczny.

Konieczny — who lives in the Polish town of Przemysl, some 40 kilometers from Pawlokoma — is the author of a book on the Pawlokoma massacre. According to him, the AK group killed some 150 Ukrainian men in Pawlokoma — while women and children were spared and ordered to march to Ukraine.

Konieczny argues that the massacre was retaliation for numerous killings of Poles from Pawlokoma and neighboring villages carried out by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

The UPA was created by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) in Nazi-occupied Ukraine in 1942. The armed force pursued the ideal of an independent Ukraine, which led it to fight Polish, Soviet, and Nazi forces at various times.

Konieczny said in an interview with the Polish daily "Nasz Dziennik" on May 10 that the immediate motive behind the massacre was the abduction by the UPA of a dozen Poles from Pawlokoma in January 1945. The then-Polish communist police in the area, according to Konieczny, were too weak to react to the capture, while Soviet troops were not trusted by the local population.

"In this situation the Polish pro-independence underground decided to conduct a retaliatory action in Pawlokoma, which had been known for anti-Polish manifestations. The purpose of [this action] was to warn the OUN-UPA that Poles would not tolerate its further attacks against and killings of the Polish population in Pawlokoma and neighboring villages," Konieczny told "Nasz Dziennik."

Petro Potichny, a Ukrainian emigre historian and UPA veteran, wrote a book on Pawlokoma in which he traced the history of the village back to the 15th century.

Poland's current eastern border with Ukraine and Belarus lies roughly along the Curzon Line. It originated as a demarcation line proposed in 1919 by the British foreign secretary, Lord Curzon, as a possible armistice line between Poland and Bolshevik Russia during the then-Polish-Soviet war.

Potichny told RFE/RL that the Pawlokama massacre reflects a wider pattern of the behavior of Poles toward Ukrainians during World War II along the ethnic Ukrainian-Polish borderland on both sides of the Curzon Line.

"It was not an isolated episode. It was, so to say, a [purposeful] policy of the Polish nationalist underground," Potichny said. "But not only that of the nationalistic underground. The communist authorities, too, did similar things. They primarily intended to finally remove Ukrainians from these lands. Therefore, Pawlokoma is just a symbol of all that."

But Potichny admits that Ukrainians, too, were responsible for the murderous Ukrainian-Polish war fought by the UPA and the AK during the Nazi occupation and afterward.

"If one is to attribute blame, one needs to say that the Ukrainians are mostly to blame for what took place east of the Curzon Line, while the Poles are mostly to blame for what took place west of this line," Potichny said.

In July 2003, the then-presidents of Ukraine and Poland — Leonid Kuchma and Aleksander Kwasniewski, respectively — met in the village of Pavlivka in the Ukrainian region of Volhynia to commemorate ethnic Poles murdered by the UPA in 1943. Kuchma and Kwasniewski unveiled a memorial to several hundred Poles killed by the UPA in that particular village.

According to Poland's National Remembrance Institute, in 1943 the UPA murdered some 60,000 civilian Poles in Volhynia, in anticipation of an independent Ukrainian state after the war and a plebiscite on which country, Poland or Ukraine, should possess the disputed area. The Polish AK subsequently resorted to retaliatory actions. According to Ukrainian estimates, the AK may have killed in retaliation as many as 20,000 Ukrainians in Volhynia.

The postwar period only added to the Polish-Ukrainian record of mutual wrongs and prejudices. In 1947, the Polish communist government forcibly resettled some 140,000 Ukrainians from their native areas in southeastern Poland to Poland's newly acquired northern and western territories. The official excuse for that mass expulsion was the desire to undercut the social base of support for the UPA in the area.

Will the Ukrainian and Polish governments manage to transfer their official determination to reconcile both nations over their history to ordinary Ukrainians and Poles? This may prove to be a tricky task. But as Polish historian Bogumila Berdychowska from Warsaw told RFE/RL, this task, if completed, could beneficially invigorate the development of Polish-Ukrainian relations, which in other respects are now almost exemplary.

"Closing historical accounts is very important for present-day politics," Berdychowska said. "The relations between independent Ukraine and Poland testify to one thing: There are no principal disagreements as regards contemporary politics [between the two countries]; there are no principal disagreements as regards economic relations. Actually, the only source of conflicts lies in history."

In 2002, Kwasniewski officially condemned the forcible resettlement of Polish Ukrainians by the communist authorities in 1947. Poles expected that Kuchma in 2003 would respond with an official apology for the wartime massacres of Poles in Volhynia. But Kuchma did not fulfill that expectation.

Yushchenko and Kaczynski's in Pawlokoma is a significant, even if small, step toward Ukrainian-Polish reconciliation.

(Natalia Tchourikova of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service contributed to this report.)

Regions of Ukraine comes back, takes up language issue

By Oleg Varfolomeyev

(Jamestown Foundation)—Though defeated in the Orange Revolution, regional elites scored a strong performance in Ukraine's March 26 general election, strengthening the position of their main party — the Party of Regions (PRU) of former presidential contender Viktor Yanukovych. President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc emerged very weak in the east and south of Ukraine, where PRU people dominate the local councils. Yushchenko is grudgingly accepting the status quo and starting to withdraw his appointees from those regions. The opposition, in the meantime, is displaying its strength in its strongholds, challenging Yushchenko on a highly sensitive issue — language. Several regionalcouncils have decided to officially equate Russian to Ukrainian, and Yushchenko seems to be helpless to stop them.

Yushchenko-appointed governors in the eastern-most regions, including Henady Moskal of Luhansk and Vadym Chuprun of Donetsk, resigned in April. Yushchenko dismissed Kirovohrad governor Eduard Zeynalov of Our Ukraine and Odessa governor Vasyl Tsushko of the Socialist Party on May 3, and on May 12 he dismissed another Socialist governor, Stepan Bulba, in Poltava region. More dismissals apparently loom.

So far the government has found a replacement only for Chuprun — Volodymyr Lohvynenko. Unlike Chuprun, essentially an outsider who had spent many years abroad as a diplomat before coming home in 2005, Lohvynenko is firmly entrenched in Donetsk. He was deputy governor in 2002-2005, and prior to that that he had managed Energo — one of the major local business conglomerates controlling companies in the metals and mining sector and several banks. The PRU has no objections to Lohvynenko, who "is a person with extensive life experience," according to one of the PRU's leaders, Volodymyr Rybak. The business daily *Delo*, which published the comment by Rybak, led its article on Lohvynenko with a telling headline: "The end of Orange experiments in Donbas."

Following the March elections, Yanukovych's people became the dominant force in the Crimean parliament. The "For Yanukovych" bloc — essentially the local PRU branch — secured 44 of the legislature's 100 seats. Allied locally with the radical anti-West Progressive Socialists and several smaller pro-Russian groups, the PRU secured the election of its own Anatoly Hrytsenko as local parliament speaker to replace the politically neutral Borys Deych. Hrytsenko was elected on May 12 with 71 votes. He is hardly a political novice — Hrytsenko occupied the same position in 1997-98.

In the regions where it dominates, the PRU began to challenge Yushchenko almost immediately after the election on a matter of principle for him — language. Giving Russian an official status equal to Ukrainian was one of the PRU's main election promises. Russian de facto dominates in Kyiv and other major cities except Lviv, and public opinion polls over the past several years have shown that most Ukrainians are in favor of raising the status of Russian. De jure, however, Russian is just another minority language, on par with Hungarian or Greek. It will be hard to raise the language issue at the national level, as the PRU has no dedicated allies on this issue in the national parliament in Kyiv. In the east and south, however, the PRU quickly got down to business.

Even before the election, on March 6, northeastern Kharkiv's regional council voted, 53-22, to give Russian "regional language" status. This should mean that official correspondence and bookkeeping may be conducted in Russian. Yushchenko's secretariat reacted on the same day, saying the decision was outside the legal field, as the constitution does not provide for such a status. The PRU-dominated regional councils in Luhansk and Sevastopol, however, followed Kharkiv's suit on April 25-26. Yushchenko on April 28 asked the Justice Ministry and the Prosecutor-General's Office to look into the legal side of the three councils' decisions.

The councils argued that they were inspired by the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, adopted by Ukraine. But Justice Minister Serhy Holovaty argues that the charter referred to languages on the verge of extinction — a threat Russian definitely is not facing. Yushchenko has laid the blame for the language dispute on parliament, which has failed to swear in Constitutional Court judges. Language is a constitutional matter, so a decision on the Russian language status by the Constitutional Court should have — in theory — settled the dispute. But the court cannot resume it work, as it does not have a quorum. The outgoing parliament blocked the appointment of new judges to replace those whose tenure expired.

The language dispute has revealed how difficult it will be for Yushchenko to steer the country after the election in the absence of an Orange coalition, and with an opposition that dominates half of the country. The language discussion has been a convenient occasion for the PRU to demonstrate its strengths and probe Yushchenko's weaknesses.

Kyiv presses for inventory of Black Sea Fleet properties

(RIA Novosti)—Kyiv said May 4 no changes in the rent paid by Russia for the Soviet-era Black Sea naval base in Ukraine could be expected before an inventory has been completed.

Following a bitter row with Russia over natural gas supplies early this year, Ukrainian officials demanded in February that the Russian fleet pay at least $1.8 billion a year against the current $93 million, for lease of Ukrainian land and facilities.

"Today neither Ukraine nor Russia know which [facilities] belong to the Russian side," Volodymyr Ohryzko, Ukraine's First Deputy Foreign Minister, said after bilateral negotiations on the subject. "The dialogue will be purely theoretical until a complete inventory is conducted."

Ukrainian authorities said earlier a preliminary inventory had shown that many rented facilities had not been included in the 1997 rent agreements, and demanded an additional agreement. Russian officials said the country would make no concessions over rent or the withdrawal of the fleet from Ukraine, which is scheduled for 2017.

Commenting on a possible rent hike for Russia, Ohryzko said, "If we are switching to market relations, they should relate to all aspects of our interaction."

Early this year, Russia demanded Ukraine pay the market price for its natural gas imports, representing a fourfold increase on the price paid to Russia in the post-Soviet years.

A Russian-Ukrainian subcommittee met May 4 to discuss the inventory procedures.

"The issue is simple — Russia is renting Ukrainian properties and territory. We propose that in order to resolve claims and suspicions, a precise inventory procedure should be carried out: All land plots and objects leased to the Black Sea fleet should be accounted for," Ohryzko said.

Ukraine believes that Russia is illegally holding more than 150 hectares, a claim disputed by Russia.

"We want practical implementation and swift work, so that all issues can be resolved as fast as possible, but for this there needs to be willingness from the Russian side, and we are counting on this willingness," Ohryzko said.

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З гори: Танцювальний колектив 'Молодше Купало'; Внизу: 'Дитячі струни' з школи св. Мартина.

Фестиваль «Українська Мозаїка» відбувся в УНО

8 – 9 квітня в залі УНО в Едмонтоні відбувся двохденний фестиваль «Українська Мозаїка». Гості фестивалю мали унікальну можливість подивитися виставку картин сучасних Українських художників, що проживають в Едмонтоні, а також зустрітися з самими художниками. На сцені неперервно відбувалися виступи колективів художньої самодіяльності. Відбувалася виставка – розпродаж ювелірних виробів, сувенірів, вишивок, музикальних записів і багато іншого. За щоденними турботами, в шалених ритмах сучасності, фестивалі, як цей, заставляють зупинитися в захопленні і подумати: «То правда, що не хлібом єдиним...».

Свої твори на виставці представили відомі художники Валерій Семенко, Микола Мельниченко і Ірина Карпенко. Картини гарні, живі своїм обмеженим у рамочку життям перенесеного на полотно почуття, висіли на білих стінах, виставлені в рядки для нашої радості. Як дорослі діти - уже готові для своєї заготовленої долею, самостійної подорожі у майбутнє.

Люба Білаш до трепету розхвилювала серця жінок дивної гармонії і красоти сережками і кораллями, що як прикраси і обереги можуть зробити кожен день святом. Багаточисленні любителі могли також придбати музикальні записи пані Люби.

Люба і Федір Цісарі з «Орбіт» представили вишивку, кераміку, сувеніри і багато іншого, що вони мають до наших послуг у свєму невеличкому, завжди гостинному бюро подорожей у цетрі міста.

На сцені виступили чудові танцювальні колективи: «Зорянка», «Барвінок» (Форт Саскачеван), молодше «Купало», школи танців: «Шумка», «Вірність» і Школа Українських Танців Едмонтону, танцювальна Академія «Ятрань». Потішили своїм мистецтвом «Дитячі струни» з Св. Мартина. Абсолютно зачарував усіх своїм виступом Український Католицький Молодечий Хор Святого Миколая. Вела програму Люба Бойко – Бел.

Смачною їжею і печивом пригощали гостей члени організації УНО і ОУК, під керівництвом чудової господині, Марусі Гошко.

Традиційна весняна «Мозаїка», що проводиться в УНО, - чудова можливість прилучитися до джерел творення Української культури сучасності в Едмонтоні, бачити обличчя творців її, чути їхні голоси. Але це – ще не все. Творчість – вона на добро. На душеану радість, на приближення до Неба. Певно, саме тому, як доказ, частиною «Мозаїки» була презентація організації «Діти Чорнобиля», яку підготували Романна Порицька і Дарсі Гулька. Майже десять років назад я вперше зустріла жінку з Гінтона, яка привезла на гарячі джерела хлопчика з зараженої зони України. Це вона, жінка, яка ніколи не бачила України, тоді розповідала мені про хвороби Чорнобильських дітей, про те, як жителі її міста їх люблять, жаліють і що вони роблять, щоб їм допомогти. Дуже схвильована почутим від жінки, я поїхала в Гінтон, розмовляла з організаторами, а потім звернулася до декількох українських організацій в Едмонтоні, але на той час подібних програм ще не було...

Презентація на «Мозаїці» повернула в моїй памяті ті дні і я щиро пораділа, що ця справа таки розвивається, що наші українські організації підтримують цей Фонд. Я дивилася на тоненьку дівчину Рому у вишитій сорочці і думала: «Молодець»!

В Фонд Дітей Чорнобиля на «Мозаїці» було зібрано 1,911 доларів!

Фестиваль відтанцював, відіграв і відвеселився. Щира подяка учасникам і організаторам, членам УНО і ОУК за їхню працю і за їхню високу національну духовність, що пробуджує до праці їх самих, їх друзів і знайомих, всіх шанувальників Української культури в Едмонтоні.

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Kostash previews new book at Kyiv Konnection

(UkrNews)—Ukrainian Canadian author Myrna Kostash gave audience a preview of her next book, at Kyiv Konnection banquet held at St. Basil's Cultural Centre May 4.

Her new book, tentatively entitled "My Demetrius" explores the Slavic relationship with Byzantine culture and the Orthodox Church.

No date has been set for the book's release at this time.

Her keynote address a the event, which was organized as a fundraiser for the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, consisted of vignettes from the upcoming book

Kostash related how she has participated at celebrations of St. Demetrius in both Canada and Europe — at Greek Orthodox Churches in Toronto and Thessalonica, Greece.

Describing her visit to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St Demetrius at Jaroslaw, Alta, she notes the sermon Father Palamarchuk,

"'What is it we learn about human nature from the life of St Demetrius?' he began, leaning on the lectern with one arm. 'Here was a guy born with a silver spoon in his mouth: that kind of kid usually doesn't amount to anything these days! But here we have a young man born into a rich but modest family, his father the governor of Thessalonica and region, and a Christian. Here we have a young man who gave up his life at 28 years of age but who had already lived a lifetime. He finished school, took his father's position in the city, and made a big name for himself far past Thessalonica, right up to the Roman emperor, who decided to see what was going on in Salonica…'

"This was a very odd text," continued Kostash. "I thought, less the Life of a Saint than a chatty obituary by a family friend that he was making up as he went along. But then I began to hear something new and creative at work — the retelling of St Demetrius's life for us here and now, humbly assembled in the Alberta countryside, as though this saint had evolved a new identity for our needs and purposes."

"Next, the priest sang a *Panakhyda* for the dead of the Second World War, facing the small altar in the nave set with a crucifix pricked with red poppies and a stack of three braided breads pierced by a candle. He arrived at the place in the little service for the names of the dead: Fred, Harry, Steve, John, Harry, Mike, Frank, Fred….sixty years ago, and I supposed their mothers who bore them and then sent them off to die are now in their own graves.

"I had a view through the narrow stained-glass panel on the north side of the church out onto the stubbled field with its protective grove of spruce and the sheltered graves of the little cemetery. This was St Demetrius's Day and he was not on the battlements of a Byzantine city but loping across the frozen furrows of a western Canadian quarter-section. For all his eternal beauty and youth, he is someone ancient, a divine companion of the generations of the tillers and sowers and reapers, and he stands with them, his feet in clods of earth, cupping grains of wheat that sift through his fingers and fall into the furrows, the chernozom, the quarters of the dead.

"The souls of the dead are trailing behind him, their good shepherd, while we, warm inside the little church with the big dome, watched the earth open up and receive its inheritance. The god is young and beautiful, and pushes up the green sprouts of spring. The farmers will reap this crop, and call it Demetrius," concluded kostash

Born and raised in Edmonton, Kostash is the author of *All of Baba's Children* (1978); *Long Way From Home: The Story of the Sixties Generation in Canada* (1980); *No Kidding: Inside the World of Teenage Girls* (1987); *Bloodlines: A Journey Into Eastern Europe* (1993); *The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir* (1997); *The Next Canada: Looking for the Future Nation* (2000); *Reading the River: A Traveller's Companion to the North Saskatchewan River* (2005).

Myrna Kostash

All of Baba's Children, was described as "the touchstone of Western Canadian Ukrainian identity, and the first of many nationally and internationally recognized works of fiction and non-fiction," by Dr. Geraldine Nakonechny, who introduced Kostash.

"For Ukrainian Canadians, Myrna Kostash's work is a reflection of our time, our place and our culture, and she has given us a deeper understanding of our beginnings and has shown us the path of national and international acclaim while embracing our cultural identity. She has illuminated countless others within Canada and beyond on our heritage and our struggles," said Dr. Nakonechny.

Dr. Roman Petryshyhn, director of the Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre at Grant MacEwan College, gave the audience an update on the activities of the URDC.

He said that GMC continues to be Canada's leading college in Ukrainian studies. — still the only one with a Ukrainian Centre.

Along with the University of Alberta, a leader in North America for Ukrainian language, literature, history and folklore studies, this makes Edmonton a centre of excellence in Canada for Ukrainian post secondary programs.

"Consequently we in Edmonton have a role to play in our own institutions and also to provide leadership services for provincial, national and international projects that others from Canada can be involved in," he added.

Among this year's highlights:

• Drs Doris and Peter Kule have pledged to add to their existing endowment at URDC, bringing it up to $1.0 million;

• The UFCE contributed another $15,000 to URDC's annual operating budget this year;

• MacEwan's Business Management program continues to be taught in Kyiv, for the eighth straight year;

• URDC continues to play a lead role in organizing the work of the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT), made up of faculty members from MacEwan and from the Department of Educational Psychology, U of A;

• In conjunction with this and other plans of the Canada Ukraine Research Team, the Ukrainian Centre will be hosting two special guests from Kyiv in June —academic Viktor Seniov and Prof. Maria Sheremet from the Drahomanov National Pedagogical university. Both are national leaders in preparing young teachers to work with children with disabilities.

• CURT has been awarded. that body has awarded URDC its second research grant ($9,500) by the MacEwan Research Council, to continue its work in this field;

• URDC continues to devote a portion of its time to work in partnership with other Ukrainian educational institutions on a national and provincial basis and chairs the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal Consortium Association, which employs staff to produce bilingual English-Ukrainian electronic learning objects.

Dr. Kashuba receives President's Award

(UkrNews)—Dr. Steven Kashuba was the recipient of this year's Ukrainian Foundation for College Education President's Award.

The presentation was made by UFCE President George Zaharia at the Kyiv Konnection banquet, May 10.

From the outset of its creation, Dr. Kashuba has held positions on UFCE executive.

George Zaharia (left) presenting the UFCE President's Award to Dr. Steven Kashuba.

From 1994 to 1999, he served as the board Secretary. In 1995, he worked on the by-laws of UFCE with contributions from Bill Pidruchney. In 2000 and 2001, he was the President and for the following two years served as Past President. It was during his tenure as President, that Dr. Kashuba oversaw the amended and restated Trust Indenture between the Strathcona Ukrainian Bilingual Association and the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, that was signed on September 30, 2001.

In accepting the award, Dr. Kashuba stressed the importance of volunteerism.

"Volunteering was not invented in Edmonton but it certainly has taken root in our city," he stated.

"Where does it all start? Why are we here tonight? Let me advance just a few thoughts.

"Volunteerism takes place to reinforce a special event or it takes its roots because of some great injustice. A tragedy.

"For many of us it might have started with the celebration of the centenary of our pioneers who first came to this great land in 1891 — the recognition of a happy event.

"Maybe it was as a result of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

"On the other hand, many of you saw the injustice of the internment of Ukrainian Canadian in 1915 to 1917. You wanted to bring this injustice to the attention of all Canadians. So, you volunteered.

"Then, there were the misguided policies of Josef Stalin and the Holodomor 1932-33. You volunteered to bring this event to the attention of the world. Maybe it was the horrors of the Holocaust during World War II.

"For many others it might have been April 26, 1986 and Chornobyl and the cover-up by the Soviet authorities. You helped as a volunteer.

"More recently it might have been Ukraine's Declaration of Independence in 1991 or the subsequent Orange Revolution.

"I have had several assignments in Ukraine, Poland and Armenia. I have seen the devastation of misguided government policies and am convinced that Canadian volunteers do help.

"Yet, in all of this we need someone to point us in the right direction. More than anyone else, that one person is responsible for lighting candles rather that cursing the darkness. That one person is Dr. Roman Petryshyn. So, on behalf of all of you and especially Roman, I accept this recognition," concluded Dr. Kashuba.

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Оттава відзначила 20–ті роковини Чорнобиля

Уряд Канади проголосив допомогу в сумі 8 мільйнів доларів

Юлія Войчишин

В наших грудях кулі і ножі,
Нас розп'ято й знищено не раз,
Боже, Україну збережи,
Господи помилуй нас.

Канадський Фонд Дітям Чорнобиля в Оттаві під патронатом Конгресу Українців Канади і Посольства України в Канаді розпочав підготовку до відзначення цієї сумної дати ще при кінці минулого року і це дало добрі наслідки. Треба також підкреслити велике зацікавлення Централі Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля в Торонті і їхню підтримку. У висліді нам вдалося зорганізувати виїмково успішні заходи.

13–го квітня в авдиторії Національної Бібліотеки й Архівів відбувся науковий доклад професора Марка Горбача з Йорк університету на тему: "Cancer rates in post-Chornobyl Ukraine: how much do we know about radiation-induced cancer?" і показ потрясаючого фільму "Disaster at Chornobyl". На цьому вечорі була також презентація картини, яка виграла І–шу нагороду у мистецькому конкурсі у середніх школах Оттави. Цю символічну картину про наслідки Чорнобиля намалювала 15–річна китайка Беті Ліянґ і назвала її "Forget me not". Беті з своїми батьками була присутня на вечорі і її нагороджено грамотою та чеком на сто доларів.

В міжчасі, ми працювали над ідеєю проголошення мером міста Оттави Бобом Чіяреллі, 26–го квітня 2006 року днем пам'яті Чорновиля в місті Оттаві – "Chornobyl Day of Remembrance in the City of Ottawa". Це нам вдалося і заступник мера міста д–р А. Кусі–Аппіян передав відповідну Прокламацію на руки голови організаційного комітету Юлії Войчишин під час церемоніялу відзначення.

Це відзначення було кульмінаційною подією Чорнобильського місяця в Оттаві, і відбувалося воно 26–го квітня на Парляментській гірці між Вічним вогнем і Центральним блоком парляменту від 6–ої до 7–ої години вечора. Запрошені були: Прем'єр Міністер Стівен Гарпер, провідники опозиції – лібералів Билл Ґрегем, Блоку Жил Дусет та Нової Демократичної партії, Джек Лейтон, сенатори, парляментаристи, дипломати, етнічні групи та українська і білоруська громади. Організовано в одностроях брала участь Пластова станиця та СУМ.

ФОТО — С. КЛОСЕВИЧ

Міністр довкілля Рона Амброз.

ФОТО — ОЛЕГ КАНДИБА

Молоді учасники на відзначенню.

Програма відбувалася на тлі парламенту, а на сходах що ведуть до нього, тло творили прапори: канадський, український, білоруський, курінний прапор Пластового куреня ім. Володимира Івасюка та прапор СУМ–у. Перед ними поставлено підвищення для промовців. На кілька метрів перед промовцями споруджено, за проектом мистця Володимира Катрушенка, символічну композицію у формі хреста з аранжацією сухої трави, очерету, полину, осоки, квітів – символу чорнобильської мертвої природи і горіли лампадки. Це було одночасно престолом для молебня а також місцем покладення живих квітів та встановлення запалених пропам'ятних свічок.

Програмою керував визначний канадський журналіст Віктор Маларек. Після «О, Канада» він в короткому вступному слові з'ясував трагічні наслідки вибуху в Чорнобилі та сучасні, контроверзійні, часто протилежні оцінки світових організацій, які не завжди керуються добрими намірами, даючи перевагу інтересам ядерної індустрії. Він твердить, що: "Chornobyl is not in the past. And for the people of Ukraine and Belarus, Chornobyl is never out of mind. For them, it is a catastrophe that continues to unfold day after day after day in agonizing slow motion".

Першою, ведучий Маларек покликав Міністра довкілля Рону Амброз, яка представляла Прем'єр Міністра Гарпера та уряд Канади. В своїому виступі вона виказала поінформованість про історію Чорнобиля та Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля і його працю в Україні. Міністер також поінформувала присутніх про це, що Міністер Закордонних справ Пітер Маккей, 25–го квітня проголосив у Парляменті про 8 мільйонів доларів додаткової допомоги, що становить загальну суму надану дотепер Україні на потреби Чорнобиля до 66.2 мільйонів доларів. Вона сказала: "On behalf of the people and Government of Canada, I want to assure you of our country's commitment to remember the victims of the Chornobyl accident - now and in the future. We will not forget".

Від Посольства України виступив Charge d'Affaires Вадим Пристайко, який висловив подяку Канаді за допомогу і признання Канадському Фондові Дітям Чорнобиля за корисну працю в Україні.

Президент Конгресу Українців Канади, Орися Сушко наголосила велику потребу допомоги Україні.

В імені провідника Ліберальної партії, Бил Ґрегема, говорив Борис Вжесневський, наголошуючи свою приналежність до справи допомоги жертвам Чорнобиля, від самого початку заіснування Чорнобильського фонду. Він також виступив того дня пополудні в парляменті пригадуючи всім про 20–річчя великої чорнобильської катастрофи в Україні.

Від Блоку Квебеква говорив критик індустрії Paul Crete. Він висловив своє співчуття українцям в Квебеку і в його окрузі. Того самого дня пополудні у парляменті виступила член парляменту Monique Guay, яка сказала: "The Bloc Quebecois shares the pain of the Ukrainian people and reiterates its commitment to continue to promote a Quebec that has an environmentally sound energy footing."

Jack Layton, провідник Нової Демократичної Партії прийшов в асисті членів парляменту Peggy Nash і своєї дружини Olivia Chow. Він в основному говорив з точки погляду довкілля й екології та небезпеки ядерної індустрії.

Сенатор Райнелл Андрейчук виступила на відзначенні, а також того дня в Сенаті з промовою про вибух в Чорнобилі, його наслідки в житті людей та держави. Вона сказала: "Ukraine, as it strugles to create a full and vibrant democracy, requires Canada's attention and involvement. I honour those Canadians who have responded by dedicating their resources, homes and compassion for the children of Chornobyl, as I laud also the Canadian government's commitment…". Сенаторка також закликала своїх колег – сенаторів узяти участь у відзначенні.

Президент Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля Роман Степчук накреслив працю Фонду від його заснування в 1989 році і до сьогодні і доставляючи медицину, одяг та інше він сказав: "We have seen first hand the effects of the Chornobyl disaster. Let me assure you that the number of people affected… a lot more than 50 people or even 4,000 people". Він також сказав, що ми не можемо забувати про цю катастрофу і мусимо працювати над тим, щоб наступні покоління ніколи не переживали другого Чорнобиля.

Після закінчення формальної частини, пластуни роздали свічки і відбувся молебен, що його відправили о. Кирило Микитюк, ЧСВВ, о. др. Андрій Онуферко і о. Зенон Гентош з католицької церкви та о. Ігор Охримчук з православної церкви. Співав зібраний хор з обох церков та чоловічий хор «Акорд», які на кінець молебня заспівали «Боже, великий єдиний», під диригентурою Ірени Смішної.

З черги дитячий хор школи Лесі Українки заспівав пісню «Боже Україну збережи, Господи помилуй нас» на слова і музику Тараса Петриненка під диригентурою Олі Катрушенко. Під звуки останньої строфи пісні виступили ритмічним кроком 14 молодих танцюристок з групи «Світанок» з пропам'ятними чорнобильськими свічками і обійшовши двома рядами довкола хреста зупинилися в жалібних позах, а з публіки виступила жінка вся в чорному з вінком живих квітів і з двома малими дітьми, також з букетиками приступили до хреста, низько вклонилися і зложили квіти у підніжжі.

Ведучий проголосив хвилину мовчанки за жертви Чорнобиля і в той час пролунало 20 ударів дзвону. Після цього Ведучий звернувся до достойних гостей щоби вони поставили засвічені свічки на верх хреста у насипаний пісок, а тоді запросив щоб і всі люди зробили це саме щоб ці свічки горіли за жертви Чорнобиля, за сиріт, за вдів, за відродження занечищених ланів та рік і озер, і найголовніше, щоб вони горіли за Україну і щоб це що сталося 20 років тому не повторилося.

Люди підходили до хреста, ставили свічки, дехто змахував сльозу з очей а інші христилися і відмовляли молитву. При кінці на хресті вже стояло більше ніж 200 свічок. Так ми відзначили 20–річчя Чорнобиля в Оттаві.

З парляментаристів були присутні Peter Goldring, M.P. - Edmonton East, Christiane Gagnon, M.P. - Quebec, Andrew Telegdi, M.P. - Kitchener-Waterloo, Irwing Cotler, M.P. - Mount Royal, Que, Larry Bagnell, M.P. - Yukon, Mark Warawa, M.P. - Langley, B.C., та інші. З сенаторів ми зауважили – Sen. Consiglio Di Nino, Sen. Terry Stratton, Sen. David Tkachuk. Від B'nai Brith of Canada був Mr. Michael Mostyn. Брав участь у відзначенні також генеральний секретар Світового Конгресу Українців Віктор Педенко з дружиною Галиною.

На запрошення Посольства України, були на відзначенні також багато дипломатів. Для них і для інших достойних гостей, представників громади та організаційного комітету відбулося прийняття у Посольстві України на якому виступив чоловічий хор «Акорд» з «Надгробними плачами» з Єрусалимської утрені, аранжеровки Павла Маценка під диригентурою Олі Катрушенко. Віктор Маларек поділився своїми особистими враженнями про конференцію у Відні зараз після вибуху, на яку його послали з Globe and Mail, а також у 1990 році коли він накручував документаційний фільм для програми Fifth Estate - CBC.

Господар прийняття Вадим Пристайко розказав про свою юність в після–чорнобильському Києві та подякував усім присутнім за їхній вклад у відзначення цього сумного 20–річчя.

ФОТО — ОЛЕГ КАНДИБА

Ведучий Віктор Маларек на тлі прапорів.

Sex traffickers prey on Eastern Europeans

By Ron Synovitz

(RFE/RL)—Maria is a 30-year-old mother from Ukraine who left behind her husband and two young children to take what she was told would be a job in Italy as a cleaner.

The recruiters who originally promised her a high-paying salary were men who posed as representatives of a legitimate employment agency. Maria says they gained her trust because they looked professional and persuasive.

"The process I went through to get there was normal. Everything looked fine. There were two other girls with me. They were from the same region, but I didn't know them. I was going [to Italy] to work as a housekeeper. In Ukraine, they told me already that I would work either as a housekeeper or work in a bar washing dishes," Maria said.

Maria says her nightmare began after she and the other women arrived in Italy and were met by several suspicious men. They were human traffickers in the illegal global sex industry.

"We went there and arrived in one city. They took us to a building on the outskirts of the city and they told us to clean off, to relax from the travel. Later, they confronted us with the fact that we would be providing sex services. It is a shock for a human being. Escape from there was impossible. The windows were barred and there was the constant presence of a guard," Maria said.

One man in the building told Maria he had "bought" her for several hundred dollars. He said she owed him money for the cost of the airplane ticket and would have to work for him until the debt was repaid.

For the next nine months, Maria was forced against her will to work as a prostitute. Sometimes she was forced to have sex with 10 different men within a single day. She was beaten brutally whenever she refused. And if a customer complained about her performance, the brothel owner added a fine to her debt — prolonging her sentence as a sex slave.

It was only when the brothel was raided by Italian police that Maria was freed from captivity. Authorities in Italy charged her with prostitution and deported her back to Ukraine.

Maria's story is a common one in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics. Trafficking from the region for sexual exploitation has become so common since the early 1990s that it is considered by experts as a distinct wave in the global sex trade.

The U.S. State Department estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked against their will across international borders every year and that millions more are trafficked internally.

John Miller directs the U.S. State Department's Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons.

"Information on slavery is very inexact. But we believe that the majority of slave victims — in the neighborhood of 80 percent — are the female gender, and that around 50 percent are children. We believe that the largest category of slavery is sex slavery. This is not to minimize other large categories — domestic servitude slavery, forced labor in farms and factory slavery, child soldier slavery," Miller said.

Organized criminal groups have created intricate transport routes to move women to different countries. Most of these routes — whether over land, sea, or air — originally were established by weapon and drug smuggling syndicates.

The so-called "Eastern Route" through Poland and into Germany is a key overland corridor for smuggling women into the European Union from Russia, Ukraine, Romania, and the Baltics. The cities of Prague, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt also are common destinations. Large numbers of these women also reportedly end up in Italy, Greece, Belgium, Austria, and France.

The so-called "Balkan route" is another notorious path for sex-trade traffickers. It moves through Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

A third major trafficking route passes through southern Bulgaria into Greece. Eastern European women, especially Ukrainians, also end up in Turkey after traveling overland through Georgia and Bulgaria, or after crossing the Black Sea on boats from the Ukrainian port of Odesa.

Meanwhile, the former Soviet republics in the Caucasus and Central Asia have emerged in recent years as new recruitment zones — with women being moved through Central Europe to the EU or to the Middle East and China.

Israel, the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Thailand, China, and Japan also are considered key destinations for criminal groups that smuggle women for sexual exploitation.

Miller, who is responsible for the State Department's annual report on trafficking in persons, says Canada and the United States also are becoming significant destinations.

"Human trafficking is synonymous with slavery. Human trafficking relies on coercion and exploitation. It thrives on converting hope to fear. It's maintained through violence. The trade in people is a major source of revenue — in the billions [of dollars per year] — for organized crime, along with the drug trade and the arms trade. Let there be no misunderstanding. Modern slavery plagues every country in the world — including the United States," Miller said.

Canadian-based journalist Viktor Malarek is the author of "Natashas: The New Global Sex Trade." His book documents how criminal groups have increasingly preyed upon the hopes of young women like Maria since the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union.

Malarek says that in places like Israel and Turkey, the name Natasha has become synonymous with prostitutes or victims of the sex trade from all the former communist countries of Eastern Europe — whether they are from Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine or Russia. And regardless of their nationalities, brothel owners and their customers usually refer to these women as "Russians."

Malarek says not all of those caught up in the international sex trade are innocent and naive women who have been led astray. He says police and government officials stress that some women willingly enter the sex trade. But he says the vast majority of Eastern European women lured into the trade are not aware of the nature of sex slavery or the conditions they will work in.

Malarek concludes that virtually every city, town and village in Eastern and Central Europe has seen some of its girls and women disappear — becoming expendable pawns in the sex business.

It has been several years now since Maria returned to her home in Ukraine. She still has not told her family about her ordeal in Italy. She says she is unsure if she ever will be able to tell her husband the truth.

"It was not worth it. What is important in life is family — my children and my husband — in spite of everything. At the beginning, the desire for material wealth was at the front of my mind and family came in second place. But after what happened, my priorities have been reversed," Maria said.

Maria now offers advice to other young women who are being recruited for jobs abroad as a cleaners, nannies, bartenders, waitresses or models. She says before traveling, women should think long and hard about where they are going, why they have received the job offer, and what they expect to happen to them once they leave home.

(RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service contributed to this report.)

Russia calls Cheney attack 'incomprehensible'

(RFE/RL)—Russia on May 4 rejected as "completely incomprehensible" remarks by U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney that it is seeking to reverse the democratic gains made since the collapse of communism.

Kremlin deputy spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Cheney's remarks at a conference in Vilnius were a highly "subjective" view of the processes now are going on in Russia.

Cheney told a gathering of leaders from the Baltic and Black Sea regions that Russian "opponents of reform are seeking to reverse the gains of the last decade," and accused the Russian government itself of "unfairly and improperly" restricting civil society, the media, and political parties.

Cheney said the Russian government's actions have already been "counterproductive" and warned they "could begin to affect relations with other countries."

He also said Russia should stop using its vast energy supplies to bully its neighbors.

The U.S. vice president added, however, that Washington does not believe "Russia is fated to become an enemy."

At that same meeting, Cheneysaid there was "no place in Europe" for an autocratic regime such as that of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

"The world knows what is happening in Belarus," Cheney said. "Peaceful demonstrators have been beaten, dissidents have vanished, and a climate of fear prevails under a government that subverts free elections and bans your own country's flag. There is no place in Europe, whole and free, for a regime of this kind."

Cheney said the people of Belarus was suffering under the "last dictatorship in Europe."

He also called for the immediate release of opposition leader Alyaksandr Milinkevich and other opposition members imprisoned in Belarus for protests against Lukashenka's regime.

Yushchenko urges EU to spell out membership prospects

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko told the conference "Common Vision For A Common Neighborhood" in Vilnius on May 4 that Ukraine finds it difficult to remain in a "suspended state," without guarantees that it can join the EU in the future, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

Yushchenko stressed that Ukraine hopes to obtain a "clear signal that the philosophy of [EU-Ukraine] relations is based on the philosophy of open doors."

According to Yushchenko, Ukraine would now welcome an association agreement with the EU as the next stage on its path toward achieving full membership.

Current EU-Ukraine relations are regulated by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which expires in 2008.

Newsbriefs

Ukraine plans border moat

(RFE/RL)—The State Border Service is planning to dig a 400-kilometer-long ditch on the Luhansk Oblast stretch of Ukraine's frontier with Russia in 2006, Interfax-Ukraine reported on May 3. The measure is intended to prevent contraband trade in the area. At present smugglers from Russia and Ukraine reportedly cross the border in motor vehicles at high speed, making it extremely difficult for border guards to stop and check them.

Yushchenko reduces military service term

(RFE/RL)—President Viktor Yushchenko has signed a decree under which the terms of compulsory military service for several categories of draftees will be lowered, Interfax-Ukraine reported on May 10. In particular, the term of service for the Ground Forces was cut from 18 to 12 months and for the Navy from 24 to 18 months. Conscripts with university diplomas will now have to serve nine months instead of 12. The decree also raises the age limit for contract servicemen from 30 to 40 years.

Top security official resigns

(RFE/RL) —Ukraine's top security official, Anatoliy Kinakh, on May 12 handed in his resignation papers, saying that he wants to concentrate on his work in parliament, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports. Kinakh was elected to parliament as a candidate in President Viktor Yushchenko's bloc. The head of the National Security and Defense Council, and former prime minister, says he wants to make parliament more "efficient and professional."

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Plaque honouring Gareth Jones unveiled

Welsh journalist exposed Ukrainian Famine-genocide

(UCCLA)—May 2, a historical plaque honouring the Welsh journalist, Gareth R V Jones, was unveiled at The University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Jones was one of the first Western journalists to travel to, and report truthfully on, the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, the Holodomor. For that he was denounced by the Soviet authorities and by their sympathizers in the West, including the notorious New York Times correspondent, Walter Duranty, who would go on to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his supposedly objective reporting on events in the Soviet Union. Jones was later murdered by Chinese bandits in Manchukuo, in August 1935

Following the Memorial Service in the University Chapel, with remarks by Lord Elystan Morgan, president of the University, and speeches by Ihor Kharchenko;°Ukrainian Ambassador to London, Dr Margaret Siriol Colley and Nigel Linsan Colley relatives of the late Gareth Jones, the trilingual (Welsh, English, Ukrainian) a plaque was unveiled in The Quadrangle of the Old College.

Organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation, with the support of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Churches of Great Britain, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, the Ukrainian American Civil Liberties Association, and other donors, the bronze plaque is adorned with a bas relief of Gareth Jones, prepared by Toronto sculptor, Oleh Lesiuk. This was the first-ever historical marker including not only the English and Welsh languages but Ukrainian as well.

Tatars block traffic ahead of deportation anniversary

Hundreds of Crimean Tatars blocked traffic in southern Ukraine, before the 62nd anniversary of their deportations under Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, police said May 12, according to the Associated Press.

The Tatars, in a column of some 600 cars, had tried Thursday to enter the Black Sea village of Partenit — which they consider to be their historic home — but were stopped by residents blocking the road, Crimean police spokesman Oleksandr Dombrovsky said.

The blockade caused a 7-kilometer traffic jam until early that day, when police persuaded the Tatars to remove their cars from the road.

Partenit's residents continued to block entry to the village, however, and crowds of Tatars were gathered near the pedestrian crossings, Dombrovsky said, adding that the situation was tense but under control.

The Crimean Tatars, a Muslim Turkic group, had inhabited the Black Sea peninsula for more than seven centuries. Stalin accused Tatars of collaborating with the Nazis, and on May 18, 1944, ordered that some 200,000 be deported to the Central Asian steppes, where many died of famine and disease.

They were not allowed to return until around the time of the Soviet collapse of 1991. Some 250,000 returned to Crimea, where they now make up 13 percent of the population.

Unemployment is high among the Crimean Tatars today, and many live in grim conditions in villages that lack basics such as water, natural gas and roads. Fights break out frequently between Crimean Tatars and ethnic Russians and Ukrainians. The Ukrainian authorities under President Viktor Yushchenko have pledged to restore Tatars' rights.

West-leaning alliance to be strengthened, Tarasyuk says

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk said May 16 that an alliance of West-leaning ex-Soviet states would be strengthened and transformed at a summit May 22-23 in Ukraine, but emphasized that the group would not be aimed against Moscow, reports the Associated Press.

"We expect transformation of GUAM ... into a full-fledged international organization with a new name," Tarasyuk told reporters, referring to a group comprising Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova.

Presidents from the four nations are expected in Kyiv for talks about energy cooperation, diversification of energy sources, ways to solve conflicts in their region and further development of regional cooperation.

Pro-Western presidents have come to power in Ukraine and Georgia since 2004, following protests over allegedly rigged elections, and Moldova's leadership has also turned sharply westward; all three have tense ties with Russia. Oil-rich Azerbaijan is being courted by Russia and the West.

"GUAM is not a union against anybody, GUAM is a union of states having common challenges, common interests. It's a union that wants to realize those," Tarasyuk said.

He said the group was formed due to the inefficiency of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose grouping of 12 ex-Soviet republics that is dominated by Russia.

GUAM was created in 1997 to expand cooperation outside the influence of Russia. It was initially called GUUAM and included Uzbekistan, but the Central Asian nation pulled out last year, saying it had deviated from its goal of economic cooperation and focused too much on security and political issues.

Tarasyuk said that during the summit, the countries are expected to sign the new group's charter and to create its secretariat, which will be located in Kyiv.

Putin's new deal: Kremlin plays up nationalist card

By Igor Torbakov

(Jamestown Foundation—The annual address Russian President Vladimir Putin gave to the Federal Assembly on May 10 has already been billed by some Kremlin spin-doctors as Russia's version of the New Deal — the set of policies pursued by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the wake of the Great Depression. What is more remarkable, though, is that the long-term political course announced by the Russian leadership is markedly nationalist and non-liberal — if not outright anti-liberal. It appears to be based on Moscow's deep disillusionment with the dialog with the West, formidable financial resources generated by the windfall energy revenues, and the seemingly broad public demand for policies inspired by "national egotism."

Most analysts agree that Putin's state of the nation address was rather skillfully crafted. The speech projects the image of a future Russia that is a strong country in which the powerful military-industrial complex coexists harmoniously with robust social policy. As a number of observers have correctly remarked, such an image embodies the average Russian's dream: a desire to see his or her country among the main world powers and, simultaneously, have the state take care of the citizens' growing social demands. Indeed, as polls conducted by the independent Levada Center demonstrate, the priorities set forth in Putin's speech quite neatly correspond with the priorities advanced by the majority of the Russian people.

Thus, it is not for nothing that the presidential address has focused on two key social issues: the state of the country's demography and the state of its armed forces. Both family and army are highly conservative social institutions and traditionally generate quite a large amount of nationalist sentiment. Both possess significant real as well as symbolic value in the eyes of the populace.

In this sense, the overall tone of Putin's speech was clearly nationalistic, which was further amplified by the purposeful quotations borrowed from the works of Russian nationalist thinkers ranging from the liberal Dmitry Likhachev to conservative nationalists such as the philosopher Ivan Ilyin and the author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. As one knowledgeable Kremlin aide remarked, "Such quotes just cannot be accidental."

The principal target of Putin's eloquence was thus his domestic audience. In the words of one high-profile "political technologist," it was the first time that Putin said so bluntly that his policy is "dictated by the priorities of the Russian (rossiiskaya) nation and the Russian (russky) people." One has to realize, the Kremlin pundit continues, that it is the Russian nation that creates and supports the Russian state. Hence, the priorities of "Russian democracy" should be adjusted accordingly: first, the nation, and then the state.

To be sure, the Kremlin strategists who drafted the presidential address were likely guided by some very pragmatic considerations. Russia's severe demographic crisis is an issue that has increasingly been raised by Russian nationalist groupings not fully beholden to the Kremlin — such as, for example, the Rodina party. As the problem of demographic decline and a plummeting fertility rate possesses a significant electoral potential, administration pundits appear to have realized that they have to prevent the president's most dangerous political opponents from taking advantage of the explosive issue only a year before parliamentary elections.

The very fact that Putin's speech all but ignored foreign policy speaks volumes regarding the degree of the Kremlin's displeasure with the West's treatment of Russia. Of course, he disdainfully mentioned "Comrade wolf" (i.e., the United States) and its high-handed international behavior — a kind of "asymmetrical" response to Washington's annoying lecturing on democracy, most recently by U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. Symptomatically, however, instead of giving Russia's detractors a tough riposte, Putin chose — obviously seeking to appeal to Russians' nationalist feelings — to pass the Western critics by in contemptuous silence. This tactic, some Russian commentators were quick to note, allowed Putin to make Cheney look "somewhat comical, like a man yelling something to a train that has long left the station." By all appearances, the Kremlin thought this would be the best way to demonstrate Moscow's geopolitical self-assurance. Indeed, the argument goes, why should the Russian president, who is presiding over a booming economy — Russia earned around $113 billion from oil exports last year and a further $30 billion from natural gas exports — stoop to react to the complexes of the Western policymakers who cannot adjust themselves to the newly assertive Russia?

But the presidential address made it perfectly clear that Russia will continue pursuing an independent foreign policy course. It will also continue to battle any possible infringement on what it perceives to be its sphere of "vital national interests."

That said, the one big question still looms large: whether Putin's ambitious nationalist course is feasible. Three aspects make it look questionable. First is the unhealthy nature of the current Kremlin management of the economy, where private and public interests merge in an opaque and, possibly, criminal way. Second, the ongoing centralization and the creation of the huge state-run conglomerates enhance the role of the bureaucracy, which is notoriously corrupt. Third, Putin's nationalist "New Deal" is effectively a race against time, as it hinges on the currently sky-high energy prices — a foundation that could prove to be quite shaky.

Book examines Orange Revolution

(Random House)—In November 2004, the world's eyes were fixed on Ukraine — watching its people rise up and overthrow the corrupt and dishonest government. In March 2006 they will once again as the country goes to the polls after 18 turbulent months which included the President's dismissal of the entire government.

In *An Orange Revolution*, journalist Askold Krushelnycky returns to the country of his parents' birth to chart the history of this enormous but little-known European country and explain the build-up to and significance of this revolution.

Ukraine's industrial output, rich soil, precious fossil fuels and engineering excellence, made it the jewel in the USSR's empire. Despite the break-up of the superpower, the Kremlin still maintained an extraordinary hold over the country, and was determined to retain its influence.

During the run up to the 2004 elections the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, committed considerable funds to make sure his ally, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, remained in power, and casually assumed that Ukrainians would be resigned as usual to the customary vote rigging. This time, the blatant corruption and skulduggery forced hundreds of thousands of ordinary people to take to the streets and demonstrate. Decked in orange, the colour of the opposition party, the crowds called for Viktor Yushchenko — their leader in waiting.

Krushelnycky tells this gripping story with a journalist's verve and detachment. Interviewing major players and anonymous demonstrators alike, Krushelnycky also brings a very personal element to the turbulent history of Ukraine, and describes how its post war history has dramatically affected his family and friends.

In spite of threats of violence, the murder of a high profile investigative journalist and the poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko, Ukrainian people stood their ground and brought about lasting change. Krushelnycky's epilogue updates events to December 2005 and sets the scene for the elections in March 2006.

Askold Krushelnycky was born in Britain to Ukrainian parents. He is a journalist whose work has appeared in many publications including *The Independent, Sunday Times* and *Herald Tribune*. He was one of the first to report from the mujahidin side of the Afghanistan war with Russia.

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Gas, corruption and non-transparency

By Taras Kuzio, *Kyiv Post, May 10, 2006*

Recent revelations about the identity of two Ukrainian businessmen, who together own 50 percent of RosUkrEnergo, the company that handles gas imports to Ukraine, illustrates that Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko lacks the political will to clean up the energy sector, and that former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is the only politician up to the task.

The Ukrainian owners of the shady gas intermediary that was established to supply Turkmen gas to Ukraine and Europe have been revealed.

The Russian newspaper Izvestia reported that Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin together control 50 percent of RosUkrEnergo (RUE). Their shares are held through Centragas Holding and administered by Austria's Raiffeisen banking group. The other 50 percent share in RUE, owned by Russian gas giant Gazprom, is held through Arosgas, which along with Centragas is registered in Austria.

In July 2004, RUE replaced Hungarian-registered Eural Trans Gas (ETG), which had handled gas imports to Ukraine in 2003-2004. ETG had itself succeeded a company called Itera, another foreign-registered gas trader.

On April 26, Izvestia cited an audit of RUE by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Another top-four international auditing firm, KPMG, had refused the job for fear of its reputation.

The Russian newspaper article's timing was no coincidence, nor was the choice of Izvestia, which is owned by Gazprom. The leak came days after the U.S. Justice Department had revealed it was investigating links between RUE and organized crime. The Izvestia leak was coordinated with Firtash going public to the Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal.

Both Gazprom and the Ukrainian authorities had long claimed that they did not know who the 50 percent Ukrainian shareholders in RUE were. State-owned Gazprom was being deceptive, as RUE had been established, like its predecessor ETG, with the personal support of Russian President Vladimir Putin and then-Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

On March 1, 2005, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said he still hadn't received information about RUE's owners. This is curious, as on Jan. 31, Ukraine's Antimonopoly Committee announced that RUE had provided it with information about its owners. But, the AMC claimed this information was "confidential".

On Feb. 1 this year, Yushchenko said that, based on information supplied to him by the AMC and the State Security Service, "there is no Ukrainian structure behind the enterprise." This sounds like Yushchenko knew who the owners were, even though he denied it a month later.

The Ukrainian authorities could have demanded to know the Ukrainian shareholders at the gas talks held with Moscow in January, but they didn't, or at least said they didn't. How could Ukrainian negotiators fail to notice Firtash's involvement in the gas deal struck with Moscow this past January, which resulted in gas imports to Ukraine doubling in price?

Since then, the Ukrainian authorities have been disinclined to find out who's behind RUE, lest the names reveal continuing tolerance of corruption in Ukraine's energy sector. Herbert Stepic, head of Raiffeisen International, said on April 24 that the Ukrainian and Russian governments "have always known who the owners are."

RUE predecessor ETG was reportedly run by top Kuchma advisor Serhiy Levochkin. Levochkin and Fursin were both in parliamentary speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn's election bloc, which failed to make it into parliament in the March elections. Lytvyn had been head of the presidential administration until becoming parliamentary speaker in 2004.

Business

According to a report by the Internet site Ukrayinska Pravda, part of Fursin's 5 percent share in RosUkrEnergo goes to Kuchma. During Yushchenko's presidency, Kuchma has not been questioned for abuse of office or other crimes in which he was allegedly involved.

Widespread suspicion points to Kuchma being given immunity during negotiations in December 2004, possibly at the insistence of the EU. If true, Kuchma's immunity also came with a large unofficial 'pension' from RUE.

According to Ukrayinska Pravda, Firtash is the link between RUE and ETG. Firtash's main business offices (High Rock Holdings) are in Moscow and offshore Cyprus, meaning most of Ukraine's 50 percent share in RUE is run by a businessman from Moscow.

Firtash's business partner, according to Ukrayinska Pravda, is deputy head of Ukraine's state oil and gas company, Naftogaz Ukrainy, Ihor Voronin, who also played a role in the January gas agreement. Voronin, according to this same report, has ties to the Russian FSB and was the go-between in the Kuchma era between Russia and Ukraine in energy talks.

Voronin, one of the founders of RUE, was removed as deputy head of Naftohaz Ukrainy by the government of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, only to be reinstated with the support of top Yushchenko advisor Oleksandr Tretyakov, his longtime friend. Voronin is also acting head of the newly established UkrGaz-Energo, a joint venture between RUE and Naftohaz Ukrainy.

In The Wall Street Journal, Firtash admitted that a company he had controlled once had as a shareholder Semyon Mogilevich's wife, whose shares he took over. Mogilevich is an organized crime fugitive from the FBI living in Moscow, where he has official protection.

Speaking in London, Firtash further admitted: "I have met Mogilevich a few times. But I have never been in any partnership with him and have never done any business with him."

Yushchenko expressed surprise at the Izvestia article and asked to see a copy of the PricewaterhouseCoopers audit. Why was Yushchenko surprised if he consistently defended the inclusion of RUE in the January gas agreement?

Why should one side of RUE be controlled by the Russian state (through Gazprom), while two little-known businessmen control the Ukrainian side? Ukraine has claimed that Russia forced RUE upon them while the Russian side said that Ukrainians proposed RUE.

Firtash, like many Ukrainian businessmen in 2004, supported both Yushchenko and his electoral opponent, Viktor Yanukovych, to ensure they came out on top, whoever succeeded Kuchma as president. These early ties to Yushchenko were confirmed when Firtash allegedly chartered a plane for first lady Katya Yushchenko's American-Ukrainian family to attend Yushchenko's Jan. 23 inauguration. The flight was arranged by Tretyakov, and the cost ($270,000) was paid for by Firtash.

Many in Ukraine and abroad are dismayed at Yushchenko's lack of political will to clean up the energy sector as part of his promise to combat corruption.

Some see Yushchenko's former political ally Yulia Tymoshenko, widely regarded as a populist and an advocate of state capitalism in the West, as the only Ukrainian politician up to the challenge. Yushchenko appears reluctant to appoint Tymoshenko prime minister in an Orange parliamentary coalition, despite her bloc winning more votes than Our Ukraine.

But if Yushchenko is committed to taking Ukraine into NATO and the EU, this requires battling corruption. The most corrupt sector of the economy is energy — an area that Yushchenko has been ironically unwilling to touch.

We can only reach the conclusion that Yushchenko has not found the political will to reform the energy sector and has left in place the same corrupt schemes in existence under Kuchma.

The only Ukrainian politician willing to take this problem on is Tymoshenko. Perhaps it's time for the West to reevaluate its views toward her?

Taras Kuzio is a visiting professor at George Washington University

GDP grows 3.5% in April

(Interfax)—Ukraine's real GDP grew 3.5% in April and 2.7% in the first four months of 2006, the State Statistics Committee said in a statement, May 15.

Nominal GDP stood at a tentative 128.711 billion hryvni in January-April and at 35.625 billion hryvni in April alone, the statement says.

A growth in total and value added costs in construction of 6.7% attributed to the GDP growth, along with a 6% growth in transport, and 5.5% in energy, gas and water distribution. Agriculture, hunting and timber output grew 4.6% and the extractive industry rose 3.3%.

The Ukrainian Economy Ministry predicts GDP growth of 2.8% in 2006, compared with 2.6% in 2005.

Gov't accepts resignation of Naftogaz chief

(Ukrainian Journal)—The government on May 11 accepted resignation of Oleksiy Ivchenko, the head of Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the national oil and gas company, following weeks of persistent disputes over the company's spending plan this year.

The departure of Ivchenko, who signed a controversial natural gas agreement with Russia in January, is a step that may help political groups strike a coalition agreement later this month.

Two biggest groups that have been recently elected to Parliament, the Regions Party and a group led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, have been insisting on Ivchenko's dismissal.

Ivchenko, who plans to focus on work in Parliament, has been recently suggesting he would step down if Tymoshenko were to secure the post of the prime minister in the future government.

The position of the head at Naftogaz is extremely important as the company is the dominant natural gas producer and shipper in Ukraine. Naftogaz's role is also instrumental in improving the country's energy security by pushing for diversified imports of oil and gas.

"The most important thing now is to make sure Naftogaz continues to operate, that the gas is available, prices are unchanged, and consumers get steady supplies," Energy and Fuel Minister Ivan Plachkov said.

Plachkov said the government has not yet nominated anyone to the post, suggesting that the candidate may be nominated by groups that are seeking to create the coalition.

Naftogaz is also the biggest corporate taxpayer in Ukraine and its role is important in meeting the government's 2006 budget revenue targets, analysts said. Naftogaz paid $2.5 billion in taxes in 2005, while the plan set the tax payment at $1.8 billion in 2006.

Two weeks earlier the government restricted indefinitely spending by Naftogaz this year amid concerns that the company may run into financial difficulties.

Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, who engineered the restrictions, said the measures will be intact until Naftogaz and ministry officials come to terms over the company's disputed spending plan in 2006.

Naftogaz's original spending this year had a financial gap of about $1.7 billion, apparently due to a number of overseas oil and gas development projects. Pynzenyk had insisted Naftogaz should have cut the spending dramatically.

Meanwhile, Naftogaz has been experiencing some financial difficulties earlier this year, especially in March and April, due to a 95% hike in prices of imported natural gas since Jan. 4.

Naftogaz has been reportedly facing a $700 million debt owed to RosUkrEnergo, a gas trader controlled by Gazprom, and has been increasingly relying on borrowing overseas to meet its financial obligations.

Ivchenko is also the leader of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, a small party with powerbase in western regions of Ukraine that has strong anti-Russian sentiment.

Appointment of a more centrist figure to the top Naftogaz job could potentially help to improve relations with Russia's Gazprom, some analysts suggested.

Briefly

Yushchenko for pipeline

(Ukrainian Journal)—President Viktor Yushchenko, during his visit to Poland on Friday, pressed for construction of an oil pipeline that would help both countries reduce dependence on Russian crude oil supplies. Yushchenko and his Polish counterpart Lech Kaczynski backed plans for setting up a European organization, similar to NATO, to help countries jointly deal with emerging energy security issues.

Refinery purchase mulled

(Ukrainian Journal)—UkrNafta, Ukraine's largest oil producer, mulls acquisition of two oil refineries in order to cut costs while producing gasoline and sell it through its own gas pumps, a key shareholder said May 11. Ihor Kolomoyskiy, who is thought to own 42% of UkrNafta, said the company mulls buying majority stakes in Galychyna and Naftokhimik Prykarpattia refineries that may cost up to $350 million each.

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Belarusians knock out Ukraine

By Andrew Podnieks, IIHF

Belarus outskated, outhustled, and outskilled Ukraine May 13 at Skonto Arena, earning a well deserved 9-1 win to remain in the thick of things in Group F. The power play factored in again as the team scored four times with the extra man, two of those goals coming on 5-on-3 situations.

Montreal Canadiens prospect Mikhail Grabovsky had a hat trick and Andrei Skabelka had a goal and five assists. Andrei Kostitsyn, also a potential future Canadiens star, added three assists.

"The key to our success is that we have to score on the power play, and the Grabovsky line has to produce," said Belarus Head Coach Glen Hanlon. "Both of those things happened tonight."

Ukraine's Kostyantyn Simchuk faced 39 Belarusian shots in this blowout

The game officially eliminated Ukraine from possible quarter-final participation.

"Our goal was to try to improve from last year, where we placed 12th," said Hanlon.

Belarus opened the scoring at 10:36 while enjoying a two-man advantage made possible by a careless play on the part of Ukraine goalie Kostyantyn Simchuk. With the team down a man, Simchuk inadvertently fired the puck into the players' bench, resulting in a minor penalty and putting his team in a hole. Mikhail Grabovsky converted a nice pass from behind the net by beating Simchuk through the legs from in tight.

Belarus upped its lead to 2-0 at 2:11 of the second with Sergei Klymentiev in the penalty box. He was back in the lineup tonight after having his suspension reduced from two games to one, but Viktor Kostyuchenok made him pay the price by ripping a low shot in the slot past Simchuk in much the same way Grabovsky scored in the first.

The Belarusians blew the game open 26 seconds later by scoring again, this time on a scramble in front of Mezin, with Oleg Antonenko doing the damage.

They added a fourth goal, third on the power play and second while 5-on-3, at 15:47 when Grabovsky counted his second of the game, banging home a loose puck in another scramble around Simchuk's net. Klymentiev was one of he players in the box for Ukraine.

The second period was dominated by Belarus, so Ukraine was lucky to score at 19:47 when Yuriy Gunko drifted a point shot on goal that Mezin couldn't see.

Belarus made it 5-1 at 5:06 when Dmitry Dudik barged his way to the goal and managed to get a shot off while being weakly checked by Klymentiev, who was hardly having the kind of impact on the game he had hoped to upon being given the chance to play.

The romp was on when the Belarusians drew two more penalties off their speed on the rush and on another 5-on-3 chance they converted to make it 6-1. Kopat added a goal at 16:40 and Grabovsky completed the hat trick at 17:26. While he celebrated the goal, Ukrainian D-man Andrei Sryubko jumped Andrei Kostitsyn and started punching him in the head. Dudik closed out the scoring at 17:48. Then, with one second left in the game, Andriy Mikhnov started punching another Belarus player, trying to start a fight. It was not a pretty way for the Ukrainians to go out.

Slovakia wallops Ukraine

(IIHF) — With a 8-0 shellacking of Ukraine, Slovakia secured the fourth and final quarter-final spot in Group F May 16 at Skonto Arena.

The Ukrainians finished the tournament 12th overall. Slovakia was scheduled to face Canada in the quarter-finals the night this issue went to press.

"It was an important game for us, so we did not leave anything to chance," said Rastislav Pavlikovsky, who had an assist in the game. "We went into this game to win, with the outlook that we would not accept anything less."

For such a lopsided score, the game started slow. There was not much action early on as the teams moved cautiously, feeling each other out.

At the halfway point of the period, the Slovaks□picked up their game. Ukraine's Igor Karpenko made two pad saves on Miroslav Kovacik in front. It was one of Slovakia's best chances at that point.

Shortly thereafter the Slovaks began to press their attack, and scored at 12:52 of the period. Ivan Ciernik let go a shot to the left of Karpenko as Richard Kapus, who was darting to the net, tipped it in to make it 1-0.

Ukraine would have a lone quality scoring chance when Oleg Shafarenko fired a wrister between the faceoff circles that was snared by Slovak goalie Karol Krizan, making his fifth consecutive start in place of an injured Jan Lasak. In the period, Slovakia outshot Ukraine 12-5.

There was a more determined attitude and effort in the second from the Slovaks. At 1:36 of the period Dusan Milo made it 2-0. Marian Hossa controlled the puck behind the Ukrainian net and then spotted Milo rushing towards the goal. The defenseman took Hossa's pass and broke past Roman Salnikov to score as he was off balance.

A power play goal was added at 5:11 of the middle frame after Ukraine's Viacheslav Zavalniuk was sent off for holding. Martin Strbak sent a seeing-eye slapper that stayed low to the ice and seemed to fool Karpenko.

When the Slovaks really began skating, there was no way Ukraine could keep up. It then turned into a special teams show, as the overmatched crew from Kyiv took eleven minors in the period.

Ukraine never really threatened in this one. Shots on goal told the story: Ukraine managed 10 for the game.

"We fulfilled our□mission to keep□Team Ukraine in the A Pool on May 10," said Ukrainian Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand, "In this round, we knew the tournament would be more difficult."

Slovakia added two more in the second period when Kovacik and Bartovic both scored 1:12 apart. Martin Cibak had the chance to make it five goals in the period when Slovakia was awarded a penalty shot but missed converting it.

Another three goals were tacked on for good measure in the third period□as Kapus, Michal Hudec, and Milan Jurcina scored. Hudec's goal was a beautiful tally, as he took the puck from backhand to forehand after it took a generous bounce off backboard and then landed near Karpenko's crease.

Dramatic scenes as Ukraine downs Italy

By Peter Westermark, IIHF

Sports

Exhale, Ukraine — the boys in yellow and blue are through.

Konstyantin Kasianchuk, Roman Salnikov, Iurii Gunko and Yuriy Dyachenko all scored in a 4-2 win, while Giuseppe Busillo and Christian Borgatello replied for Italy, May 10.

For Ukraine, the result meant that they moved on to the Qualifying Round, along with Sweden and Switzerland. Russia, Belarus and Slovakia were on the menu for Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand's brave boys. (Ed. Note: They were slaughtered by all three — see adjoining stories.)

With about eight minutes left on the clock, Ukrainian defenseman Denis Isayenko had to leave the game on a stretcher after being hit along the boards. Soon after getting to the bench, he collapsed. He was given a protective brace around his neck as he lay down on the bench. He was sent to hospital for further examination with a possible neck injury and a broken jaw.

With 1:34 remaining, Vadym Shakhraychuk and Anthony Iob were given double minors and misconduct penalties after throwing down their gloves in front of Simchuk's net. As Iob was about to leave the ice, Sergii Klimentiev followed moments later. Then Iob and Klimentiev began fighting in the hallway leading to the dressing rooms. Security quickly broke up that fight, but while this was happening,□Michele Strazzabosco and Armin Helfer also left the ice to go after the Ukrainian players.□A linesman quickly followed the two Italians and brought the two□back onto the ice.

"We watched the video as soon as we got off the ice," said Mickey Goulet, the Italian head coach. "And Tony got sucker-punched in the head twice."

At that point, Iob went to the dressing room with a cut over one eye. Klimentiev did not return to the ice and did not receive penalties.

Following the game, players from both teams went straight to their respective dressing rooms.

As for the game, effectiveness on the special teams was the difference. Italy went 1-for-8 on the power play while Ukraine had two goals on the same number of attempts.

The Italians had their first two-man advantage only two minutes into the first, but even though they did not score, they poured on the attack and continued to do so as Ukraine returned to full strength.

Midway through the first period, play evened out and Ukraine started to get some scoring chances of their own, including a couple of two-on-one's. They didn't score, but forced the Italian team to take their first penalty of the night with a little more than five minutes left in the period.

On their first power play of the night, the Ukrainians wasted little time as Kasianchuk scored with a slapshot from inside the faceoff circle to put them up one goal only 12 seconds into the man advantage.

The Ukrainians doubled their lead early in the second period on their third power play for the night. Thirty-five seconds into the man advantage, Roman Salnikov got hold of a loose puck after an initial save from Jason Muzzatti and pushed in the rebound.

The goal seemed to further fire up the Ukrainians, who poured on the pressure with Yuriy Dyachenko and Vitaliy Semenchenko getting excellent opportunities to score goals. But either Muzzatti was there to make the save or the post saved him and Italy.

With Ukraine pushing for the third goal, Italy got one back at 12:25. Giuseppe Busillo lifted a rebound over Simchuk's outstrecthed pad after the Italians won a faceoff and drifted the puck towards the net as they created a lot of traffic in front of Simchuk's crease.

The two-goal lead for Ukraine was almost restored with two minutes left in the second period. Dyachenko's shot hit the post and then the backside of Muzzatti's pad before trickling towards the goal. As the puck was just about to cross the goal line, an Italian defender was there to clear it down the ice.

The Italians had their seventh man advantage of the evening 2:09 into the third period. But, it met the same fate as their previous six attempts. Italy did not even manage to get a shot on net for the duration of Oleksandr Materukhin's penalty.

Their attack was sometimes more potent with the man disadvantage. Anthony Iob intercepted a pass and raced in alone on Simchuk, but Denis Isayenko raced back and made sure that Iob couldn't get a shot on net, receiving a penalty for holding.

After 11:11, Gunko got Ukraine's third goal when he skated into the slot and nicely deflected a hard pass into the net. The goal meant Italy had to score three times in the final nine minutes, and the realization did not put the Italian team off as they continued to try for a miracle comeback.

With 4:22 left on the clock, Borgatello got Italy's second goal of the game when he scored on a strange deflection, as he almost knocked all the speed out of his defenseman's shot, but got the puck travelling in an arc over Simchuk, who was sitting on the ice.

Italy pulled its goaltender with more than two minutes to play, but the gamble did not pay off as Yuriy Dyachenko sealed the win for Ukraine with an easy empty-net goal.

Russian Bear mauls hapless Ukraine

By Peter Westermark, IIHF

Russia came alive in the third period to manhandle Ukraine 6-0 after only scoring once in the first 40 minutes, May 11.

Maxim Sushinsky had two goals and one assist, while linemate Alexander Ovechkin finished the game with one goal and two helpers.

"In recent games, I haven't been playing much," said Ovechkin. "But today I had a lot of ice time and felt pretty good. The more I play, the better I play."

Russian goalie Sergei Zvyagin made 23 saves before he was replaced by Alexander Fomichev, who made sure Ukraine's goose egg was intact as he made two more stops.

After starting Konstantin Simchuk in the crucial game versus Italy that Ukraine won 4-2, Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand opted to give Igor Karpenko his second start of the tournament. Right from the start, Karpenko showed he was ready and made a range of high-quality saves. He was flying around the crease and keeping his team in the game for the first two periods. Karpenko finished the game with 44 saves.

"It was tough, their goaltender played great," said Ovechkin. "But we had a lot of chances in the first two periods as well. Our coach just told us to keep attacking and we'd score."

Russia's Alexander Kharitonov left the game after a knee-on-knee collision in the first period.

A result of Ukraine's May 10 tilt with Italy was that they had to enter the game with only five defensemen. Captain Sergiy Klymentiev was unavailable due to suspension and Denis Isayenko was out with injury.

The two teams traded power plays in the early going, and Ukraine's Vadim Shakhraychuk had the best chance for the underdogs when his shot found the outside of Zvyagin's pad before hitting the post.

Overall, there was not a lot of 5-on-5 play, and the most of the play with the man advantage was just too slow, making an easy job for the penalty killers from each squad.

After 14:01, Oleksandr Bobkin collided knee-on-knee with Alexander Kharitonov, and the Russian trainer had to be called on to the ice and help the diminutive Russian off the ice and into the locker room. Bobkin was handed a five-minute major for kneeing.

On the ensuing power play, Russia peppered Karpenko with shots, and at 16:06, Maxim Sushkinsky got the first goal of the game on a wrap-around. After the goal, Team Russia did not do much with the remaining 2:55 of its man advantage.

In the second, Russia's advantage at even strength play grew stronger as Ukraine was confined to icing the puck and trying long range passes in order to get into the offensive zone during their short periods of puck possession. Russia generated one scoring chance after another, but Karpenko stood tall in the Ukrainian net and refused to allow a two-goal deficit.

Late into the second, Russia had a glorious chance when Sushinsky deked Karpenko in front of the Russian net, and had what it seemed like was a certain goal. But Karpenko made a fantastic stretching save while lying down on the ice, and right then it seemed that Russia would not get another goal in the game, no matter how they tried. But that would change.

Russia outshot Ukraine 16-7 in the middle frame.

The assault on Ukraine's net continued in the third period as the Russians started with the man advantage, and after 1:03 Maxim Sushinsky jammed home a rebound to get Russia's second goal, to make it 2-0.

The second goal really got Russia's offensive machine firing on all cylinders. After 6:06, Alexander Ovechkin then deflected home a Andrei Kruchinin shot to make it 3-0, and two minutes later with Russia on a two-man advantage Denis Kulyash's shot found the mesh to put Russia up by four.

With a little more than six minutes to go, Sergei Mozyakin mirrored Sushinsky's second goal and jammed home a rebound to make it 5-0. Georgy Misharin had the assist.

Igor Grigorenko had the final goal of the game, as he scored Russia's third rebound goal of the period.

Swedes defeat Ukraine with power play

By Andrew Podnieks, IIHF

Sweden didn't play its best, but it played well enough to beat Ukraine 4-2 to start its defense of its number one World Ranking for the gold-medal Olympic champions, May 6.

Lacking the marquee players from Torino — Mats Sundin, Peter Forsberg, Nicklas Lidstrom — coach Bengt-Ake Gustafsson hardly has the same Swedish talent as he did in February during the Olympics. Yet what he had was enough — just barely. The top line of Andreas Karlsson-Bjorn Melin-Fredrik Emvall accounted for the first three goals and was the most dangerous line all night.

"We have to play smarter and calmer, and keep the shifts short," Karlsson said, referring to the fact that the team dressed only 15 skaters. "I think we were pretty good on the power play. Otherwise, I thought we were so-so. You have to remember, this was Ukraine."

All of the 16 teams in this tournament were briefed long and hard before the first faceoff about the way the games would be officiated, yet none has gotten the message. This was another minor-penalty-filled contest that featured no fewer than 15 man-advantage situations. What's more interesting is that power plays have become such a routine part of the game that teams have no problem playing a man short. Still, the man advantage accounted for five of the six goals tonight.

The opening period wasn't necessarily a snoozefest, but given the supposed discrepancy in talent between Sweden and Ukraine, a fan might have expected more from the Swedes, who created precious few scoring chances and who didn't dominate play by any stretch of the imagination. What started off as a dull period, however, finished with a bang thanks to two quick power play goals.

The Swedes scored first when Fredrik Emvall took a pass from the corner by Anders Carlsson and drilled a wrist shot from the low slot under the blocker arm of goalie Konstyantyn Simchuk at 17:55.

"It's a great feeling," Emvall said of his World Championship debut, "and I was a little nervous before the game, but it's good to have only three lines because you don't have time to think except when you're on the ice."

Ukraine tied the game at 19:16 on a similar play when Konstiantyn Kasianchuk took a nice, soft pass from Yuriy Dyachenko behind the Swedish goal and one-timed a low shot under the pad of Johan Holmqvist.

Sweden went ahead 2-1 just 50 seconds into the second when Emvall's slapshot from the top of the faceoff circle eluded Simchuk and trickled over the goal line. It was, naturally, a power play goal.

The Ukrainians tied the game at 14:55 after being thoroughly outplayed the entire period. On their only serious puck possession in the Swedish end they drew a penalty, and Andriy Mikhnov jammed a loose puck past Holmqvist after it appeared that referee Peter Jonak had lost sight of the puck and blown play dead. Nonetheless, when the puck squirted in, he signalled a goal, and after a video review, the tying score stood.

Tre Kronor restored its lead exactly four minutes later with a power play goal when Andreas Karlsson knocked in a rebound after Simchuk had made the initial save but was left out of position. Mika Hannula added an insurance goal at 6:38 of the third on the power play again.

"It's great that we won, and we created a lot of chances today," Hannula said. "But we're a good team, so I'm not surprised."

"We played really well," Ukraine Head Coach Oleksandr Seukand said. "It's impossible to play short-handed against a team like Sweden and expect not to allow goals." Addressing the crackdown by officials, Seukand said less kindly: "Hockey has become like figure skating."

Switzerland marches on, beats Ukraine 2-1

By Peter Westermark, IIHF

Switzerland's scoring woes continue, but so does their solid defensive play.

Goran Bezina and Andreas Ambühl scored as Switzerland knocked back Ukraine 2-1, May 8. Andrei Mikhnov had the Ukrainian goal.

"These two games are very important to us," said Swiss captain Mark Streit. "The four points will help us in the next round and take a lot of pressure off us."

The game featured a fair number of power plays for both teams, but Ukraine also tried to take advantage of the zero tolerance environment by embellishing Swiss infractions. As a result, Ukraine were called for two diving penalties in the game.

"On the one hand, they lie on the ice and the next shift, they're back out," said Streit. "But we took some stupid penalties as well.

"It's dangerous to play like that, and today our goaltender was great."

Switzerland's David Aebischer had 25 saves in the game, while Ukraine's Ihor Karpenko finished with 23.

The start to the first period was largely uneventful, but Ukraine's Oleksandr Materukhin had a big chance to score the first goal of the game just before the eight minute mark when his close-range attempt sailed just outside Aebischers post.

Halfway through the first period, the Swiss drew first blood on their second power play of the game when Bezina fired a shot through the blue line that went through Karpenko's five-hole.

Ukraine's penalty troubles did not end there, but it didn't stop them from getting a scoring chance. Yuriy Dyachenko undressed Mattias Seger with a beautiful long deke and moved in alone on Aebischer, who stopped Dyachenko's wrist shot.

Switzerland answered up with a short-handed chance of their own late in the first period, and this time it resulted in a goal. Yuri Gunko misplayed a pass as his team was going forward and Andres Ambühl snagged up the loose puck in the neutral zone. Ambühl took advantage of his speed and went in alone on Karpenko to fire a wrist shot low glove-side that the small Ukrainian keeper failed to stop.

In the second period, the Swiss ran into penalty trouble as Ukraine spent 9:09 on the man advantage in the middle round. Switzerland tried to play a physical game, but got too enthustiastic, instead drawing penalties. The Swiss managed to keep the puck out of their own net, thanks to a solid box play and good netminding from Aebischer.

The lone goal of the second period was Ukraine's. Closing in on the midpoint of the game, Andriy Mikhnov fired a shot from just inside the slot area that eluded Aebischer. Oleksandr Materukhin and Andriy Sryubko had the helpers.

In the third, Ukraine set out to tie the game, but the Swiss team was not pressed back by the Ukrainians, more than on a couple occasions as the boys in red and black instead dominated much of play.

Six minutes in, Ivo Rüthemann hade a couple of great chances to add an insurance marker when he got hold of a loose puck in front of the net, but Ihor Karpenko made a couple of agile saves as he was sprawled to the ice.

Ukraine struggled to generate even shots on goal in even strength play, but with just over four minutes to go, Mikhnov had a great chance as he fired a shot off the top of Aebischer's left shoulder.

Ukraine called a time out with 1:42 to play, as they wanted to take advantage of a face off in deep in the Swiss zone. The Ukrainian team gained control of play in the offensive zone, but the team opted not to pull their goaltender.

Switzerland's Valentin Wirz left the ice twelve minutes into the second period after a harmless-looking collision in front of the Ukrainian net. He clutched his knee, and was helped off the ice by his teammates. He returned to the bench for the third period, but did not play.

Shakhtar beats Dynamo as title goes to the wire

By Igor Linnyk

(UEFA)—Nigerian striker Julius Aghahowa's extra-time goal sealed a 2-1 victory for FC Shakhtar Donetsk against FC Dynamo Kyiv as the Ukrainian title race reached an exhilarating finale with a championship play-off.

The pair, who have monopolised the Ukrainian Premier League for over a decade, finished level at the summit after drawing 2-2 in their final fixture on May 10 to force a one-off decider in Krivyi Rih.

After a hesitant first half, Shakhtar broke the deadlock just before the hour mark when Ciprian Marica tapped in Blumer Elano's clever through-ball from point-blank range, after the Romanian striker's previous effort had rebounded off the upright.

Dynamo coach Anatoli Demianenko responded by introducing Rodolfo and Artem Milevskiy and the pair made an immediate impression as the eleven-time champions upped the tempo.

A breakthrough finally came through Rodolfo with eleven minutes remaining but the rally seemed to take a lot out of Dynamo, who were at sea approaching the turnaround in extra time when the unmarked Aghahowa headed in to seal back-to-back titles for Shakhtar.

Shevchenko injury compromises Ukraine's chances — Blokhin

Coach Oleg Blokhin says Ukraine's FIFA World Cup™ prospects are being compromised by a wave of injuries in their defence and to striker Andriy Shevchenko, reported Reuters, May 17.

Blokhin, addressing a news conference two days after naming his squad for the finals in Germany, said Ukraine's initial injured problems had centred on their goalkeepers.

The focus had switched after injuries to AC Milan's Shevchenko, defender Serhiy Fyodorov and forward Andriy Vorobei. He hoped training camps in Turkey and Switzerland and a series of friendly matches would help the team gel.

"Unfortunately, the mood at the moment is not terribly good. In the qualifying games we had only one or two injured players but now we are beginning to feel the impact," he said.

"Things in the forward line and in midfield are more or less all right, but we have serious problems with the defenders. We will practically have to build our defence from the ground up.

"For three years we have been unable to solve the problem at right-back. We have too few candidates to draw on."

Blokhin gave no details of the injury to Fyodorov but, if he is not fit, he will be replaced by Dmitri Chigrinsky from Shakhtar Donetsk.

"And we are naturally very worried about Shevchenko. Andriy now is having a two-week break after which he will be able to start training again," Blokhin said.

"Of course, with Shevchenko we have one team and without him it is quite another team."

Blokhin expected Shevchenko to rejoin the team before they headed off to Switzerland at the end of May. The player's mooted move to Chelsea did not worry him, he said.

"If this issue is settled quickly there will be no problem," he said. "He has not spoken to me about it. If he asks me, I will tell him what I think.

Brazil's Kleber wins Ukrainian Cup for Dynamo Kyiv

A second-half goal by Brazilian forward Kleber sealed a 1-0 win for Dynamo Kyiv over Metalurh Zaporizhya in the Ukrainian Cup final on May 2, reports Reuters.

Kleber's diving header in the 47th minute secured Dynamo their second consecutive cup victory and eighth overall since the competition began in 1992 after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Zaporizhya, an unfashionable side from the eastern Ukraine, were appearing in their first cup final and dominated much of the game.

But they wasted several chances in the first half and Dynamo goalkeeper Olexander Shovkovsky made a string of fine saves.

Shovkovsky, Ukraine's first-choice keeper, has recently returned to Dynamo's line-up after missing three months with a shoulder injury, boosting his country's chances at next month's World Cup finals.

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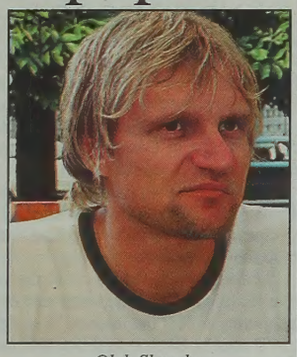
Ukraine rock battles Russian pop

By Kateryna Khinkulova,
BBC Ukrainian Service

The Ukrainian capital has hosted a new rock festival billed as an attempt to roll back a tide of Russian pop and promote the country's alternative music scene.

Almost 50 bands performed over two days at Kyiv's Rock Sich festival, whose slogan was "Live sound! No to pop! Yes to the Ukrainian language".

The festival's name "Sich" harks back to a kind of training camp for Ukrainian Cossacks that was founded in the 16th Century.



Oleh Skrypka

The idea is that Ukrainian rock musicians are defending the country's music and culture from Russian pop in the way that Cossacks once defended the Ukrainian steppe from the Ottoman Turks.

Along with some well-known and successful bands, Rock Sich provided a platform for groups trying to make their mark in the tough world of Ukrainian show business. Their music can be described as "non-formal" — a term adopted by the music industry in former Soviet countries and better known in the West as Indie.

Hand-picked by the festival's organiser, veteran Ukrainian rocker and cultural patriot Oleh Skrypka, they had to fulfil three festival conditions:

- To sing professionally and live (ie - not miming);
- To play rock, hip-hop or anything other than pop;
- To sing in Ukrainian.

"Since the Orange Revolution [in 2004] Ukraine has been undergoing a cultural renaissance," believes Skrypka, who for this occasion swapped his famous Ukrainian-style embroidered shirt for a rocker's leather jacket.

"But if we don't support it, it will die away."

Ukrainian TV channels and FM radio stations choose to play generic Russian pop music, known to keep listeners happy, rather than risk experimenting.

Even 15 years after independence, the Ukrainian language remains a minority tongue in many parts of Ukraine, often spoken only in the countryside or by intelligentsia and state officials.

Skrypka is a cult figure in Ukraine — a doer of good deeds, a rock legend and an ingenious stage performer, a kind of Ukrainian Bob Geldof, Mick Jagger and Robbie Williams fused into one.

He started out 20 years ago as lead singer in the country's oldest rock-band, Vopli Vidopliasova or VV ("vopli" means "screams" and Vidopliasov is a character from a Dostoyevsky novel). He evolved into an icon, but not merely for his rock cool.

Skrypka tried to make it in France as a rock musician in the early 1990s but came back to Ukraine in 1997. His hit Vesna (Spring) propelled him and his band to stardom, both at home and in neighbouring Russia.

For the last few years he has been producing an ethnic music and arts festival, Kraina Mriy (Land of Dreams), in Kyiv. In the summer of 2004, a few months before the Orange Revolution, the festival became a rare place where the then opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko could address the people.

During the liberal, pro-Western Orange Revolution, VV and many other bands tirelessly performed in front of the crowds in the centre of Kyiv.

Oleh Skrypka believes that now is a unique chance to give Ukrainian culture a boost of confidence and his new venture — a rock festival calling on the musicians to become Cossacks for a weekend — will, he hopes, become that needed boost.

"We are now faced with a situation where, after the Orange Revolution, it's possible for Ukrainian music to carve out a place for itself in society and in the media," he says.

"If we don't do it now, we'll have the same thing as happened in Russia, where alternative music is frozen deep underground and what's left on the surface is rock dinosaurs."

Lunch with … Canadian-born teacher Maria Kachmar

By Larissa Babij,
Kyiv Post, May 3, 2006

Though having traversed many countries — Canada, France, Germany and Poland, to name a few — before ending up in Ukraine, Maria Kachmar continues to follow a thread spun by her family history. Meeting for lunch at Marrakesh, a Moroccan restaurant on Sahaydachnoho, Maria notes that she even made it to this African country in her travels. Charming and enthusiastic, the third-grade teacher at Pechersk School International is devoted to learning about her personal and cultural history and encouraging others to seek out their own roots.

Born in Edmonton, Maria grew up speaking Ukrainian to her father and his parents (her mother is of Swedish descent). She attended a Ukrainian Catholic school, but remembers turning away from her heritage as a teenager. But by the end of high school, she felt compelled to search deeper into the culture of her grandmother's tales. "I just felt this connection; I didn't want to lose this part of me," she says. Not satisfied with the daily hour of Ukrainian language offered in high school, she enrolled herself in the local Ukrainian Saturday school, the first student ever do so of her own volition.

Ukrainian is only one of many languages Maria was interested in. After graduation, she became an au pair in France. "It was like this dream of mine to just leave everything behind and move to Europe," she laughs. Like the heroine of many films about a North American who goes to Europe and returns transformed, Maria admits, "I think, in effect, that did happen to me." She certainly realized her language goal: after three months she could speak French fluently.☐ But she was disappointed that her host family only wanted to hear about Canada and showed no interest in Ukraine.

After a year studying education as well as Ukrainian language and literature in college, Maria found herself struggling with the options available in Canada to master Ukrainian. Having learned from her year in France that immersion is the best way to fluency, she arranged to spend a semester at Ivan Franko University in Lviv.

Setting her sights beyond her own intellectual enrichment, Maria wanted to write a book about her semester in Lviv so that she could share her educational experiences with others. "I really felt that, since Ukraine had been behind the Iron Curtain for so many decades, there was a big gap between … Ukrainians in the Diaspora in Canada and Ukrainians in Ukraine. And I felt that I wanted to write a book that could help to bridge this gap."

Maria Kachmar

Working with a mentor from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Maria decided to write a travel diary in modern Ukrainian — complete with contemporary expressions — that could be used in language classes. She would record her observations, including descriptions of current cultural traditions, to inform the Diaspora about contemporary Ukraine. Published in 2003, "Semestr u Lvovi (A Semester in Lviv)" is now a common text used in universities and Ukrainian schools in Canada.

After studying in Lviv, Maria made a point to return to Ukraine at least once a year. This was not too difficult, as she relocated to Germany after finishing her degree, then Poland, always keeping her eye on Ukraine as a final destination. Because of the many business and international aid connections between Germany and Ukraine, she felt German would be a strategic language to learn. But after two years (and having mastered German), Maria was ready to move on.

Still hungry for "one more country, one more language," Maria took a job at a Canadian school in Poland. Drawn by a desire to explore the birthplace of her grandmother, Maria explains, "I somehow felt that if I learned Polish I could understand her better and I could understand my family history better."

After experiencing the high emotions and political turmoil of the Orange Revolution as an election observer, Maria finally moved to Kyiv in 2005. Teaching at Pechersk School International, she exercises her knowledge of English, Ukrainian, French, German, Italian, Polish, and Russian with her students. "I'm really happy that I work in an international environment where I have kids from all different countries and sometimes I can speak to them in their home languages," she shares.

At school, Maria encourages the philosophy that each person must first understand his own cultural history in order to learn about others. "I feel that I am very strongly Ukrainian, but I'm also really interested in other cultures. And I really appreciate when people can tell me a lot about their culture," she says, radiating genuine curiosity. She leads an after-school Ukrainian club where both local and foreign students are exposed to Ukrainian language and culture through songs, stories, and games.

Maria approaches the history of her current homeland with zeal; she is currently reading books about the ancient Trypillian and Scythian cultures that once made their homes here. "Ukraine is so much more than these last 20 years … and in order to fully understand the culture, it's important to understand every part of it. And even these pre-Ukrainian cultures that existed in Ukraine left their mark on the territory," she says, noting that Ukrainians' strong ties to nature can be traced to pagan times.

Maria, who is smartly dressed in spring pink, loves walking around Kyiv and appreciates the effort that Ukrainians put into dressing well. She takes advantage of modern amenities like the local gym — where she goes as often as she can — and also the old tradition of buying fresh, home-grown vegetables at the bazaar. Although her travels have carried her full-circle to the land of her grandparents, Maria is clearly situated in the present, stating, "I don't just love this idea of Ukraine that my baba told me about, but I genuinely love living here."